

The Swanson Anchor

May 2014



From the Principal's Desk

Believe it or not, the Standards of Learning (SOL) tests are right around the corner. We started with the Writing SOL for 8th graders in early March, and in late May through early June, all of our students will be taking SOLs:

- 6th grade: Reading, Math and Social Studies
- 7th grade: Reading, Math and Social Studies
- 8th grade: Reading, Math (Math 8, Algebra or Geometry), World Geography and Science

It is essential for students to be present during review and testing time. Teachers will offer opportunities for students to review content after school and may also incorporate practice into regular class warm-ups and lessons as testing approaches. Passing the Algebra, Geometry and World Geography SOL tests will allow students to earn verified credit for these courses and is required for graduation from high school. The complete testing schedule is available on the calendar at the Swanson website:

www.apsva.us/swanson.

This can be a stressful time for students. Following are tips for parents to help keep this stress to a minimum:

- Maintain a positive home environment with consistent rules and clear expectations and boundaries. Try to keep routines and structures in place that allow for family time at mealtime, a study time, a regular set bedtime and morning routines.

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From the PTA

This school year is rapidly drawing to a close, and it's time to transfer PTA leadership as many of us move on to supporting our children as they transition to high school and new adventures. With this in mind, it is time to seek leadership for the 2014-15 PTA.

I am pleased to announce that Tish Jenkins will be bringing her wealth of Swanson parent-volunteer experience to serve as your PTA president next year and am delighted that Teresa Foor will serve an additional term as your PTA Treasurer. We still need a PTA Vice President and Secretary to round out the PTA Executive Committee and need volunteers to lead the following committees and activities:

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May 2014

6 & 8	County Track Meet Gunston 1:00 pm
7	Bike and Walk to School Day
12	Men's Choral Festival with the U.S. Army male Chorus 6:30 pm
14	Spring Choral Concert 7:00 pm
17	Six Flags Music Competition and Day in the Park
22	School Board Meeting 7:30 pm
26	Holiday: No School for Students

PTA Board

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From the Principal's Desk *(Continued from page 1)*

- Encourage consistent attendance for your child and try to schedule appointments after school.
- Be flexible when dealing with issues, and try not to transfer your feelings of stress to your interactions with your child.
- Deal with little problems before they become big problems.
- Look for the positives and successes and don't forget to tell your child that you recognize them.

(Adapted from "Kids Just Want to Have Fun" by Cathy Hix)

It is important that we are aware of the distractions our students may experience, particularly at this time of the year, and that we work together to support them. Thank you for all you do to help your child do his or her best on these important exams.

— Bridget Loft, Principal

From the PTA *(Continue from page 1)*

8 th Grade Promotion Dance Party	Odyssey of the Mind
8 th Grade Promotion Reception	Reflections
Auditor	Science Fair
Book Fair	Science Fair Dinner
Community Service	Social Activities
County Council PTA Liaison	Swanson Beautification
First-Day Packets	Teacher Lounge Restocking
Grocery Receipts	Volunteer Coordinator
In-Service Breakfasts	Welcome Reception
Nominating Committee	

PLEASE NOTE: If we do not have volunteers for these tasks, these programs will not be included in our planning for upcoming school year activities. We can only support the activities for which we have volunteers.

If you are interested in chairing any of these committees, please let me know as soon as possible. Your participation is vital to the Swanson community's ability to support its children, its teachers and its school in the coming school year.

The May PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14 at 7 PM in the Swanson library. I hope to see you there!

— Julie R. Jernigan, 2013–14 Swanson PTA President

SOL News

All Swanson students will take the non-writing Virginia SOLs from **May 27 through June 12**. All SOLs are scheduled to begin at the start of MOD 1 with the exception of the 8th grade geography and science. They will take place after lunch.

The SOLs establish minimum expectations for what students should know and be able to do at the end of each grade or course in reading, math, science, and history/social science. The Virginia Department of Education website offers information and resources regarding the SOLs at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/index.shtml>

For additional information specific to Swanson and the SOLs, please call or e-mail John Barnes at

john.barnes@apsva.us (703-228-5535) or Swanson's Testing Coordinator, Sara Daidy, at sara.daidy@apsva.us (703-228-5521).

On testing day, please:

- See that your child is rested and eats breakfast.
- See that your child arrives at school on time and is relaxed.
- Encourage your child to do the best work possible.
- Do not send your child to school if illness is apparent.
- Do not remove your child from school on test days for appointments.

Specific tests and days are as follows:

Tues 5/27	Wed 5/28	Thurs 5/29	Fri 5/30	Mon 6/2	Tue 6/3	Wed 6/4
8 th Geography	8 th Reading	8 th Math Geometry Algebra	8 th Science	6 th History	6 th Math (Including 7 th Grade Math)	6 th Reading
Thurs 6/5	Fri 6/6	Mon 6/9	Tue 6/10	Wed 6/11	Thurs 6/12	
7 th Math	7 th 7 th Graders Taking 8 th Grade Math/ Algebra	7 th Reading (Voyagers and Mariners)	7 th Reading (Captains)	7 th Reading (Voyagers and Mariners)	7 th History (Captains)	

Builders Club Preps for Vegetable Garden

In early April, members of the Builders Club took advantage of a beautiful spring day and began prepping the soil for the vegetable garden. In March, we planted seeds indoors to start under the grow light. Transplanting will take place after Spring Break. We will donate all the vegetables to AFAC.

— Felicia Meier, HILT Teacher



Swanson Choral Dept. in the News, 2013 – 14

Students selected for Honor Choirs

Arlington Honors Chorus:

Timinte Abraham

Grace Barnes

Ellie Berenson

Lena Bolz

Ethan Brodnitz

Lucy Core

Lily Dines

Elizabeth Egner

Julia Elman

Bridget Flynn

Bess Golkin

Thomas Guffey

Audrey Hayes

Melanie Kasch

Katie Nieweg

Claire Pascoello

Angela Ramirez

Maggie Reinhart

Hosana Seyoum

Karuna Shipper

Emily Talotta

Melba Tariq

Evan Tong

All-District Chorus

Mixed Chorus

Will Fineman
Isabella Gant
Charlotte Howard
Jack Hughes
Juliette Jacques
Evan Kilmer
Rowan Meltmar
Gregory Roberts
Abbie Strebe
Masha Vandreal

Women's Chorus

Ellie Berenson
Juliana Clarkson
Elizabeth Egner
Riley Fitzmaurice
Liana Hardy
Audrey Hayes
Melanie Kasch
Becca Schaefer
Karuna Shipper

All Virginia Chorus

Katie Nieweg
Greg Roberts
Karuna Shipper
Masha VanDreal
Melanie Kasch, alternate

Donation for a Grand Piano Honors Long-Time Swanson Choral Director, Florence Broaddus

Mrs. Flo Broaddus taught many years at Swanson Middle School, nurturing singers who went on to sing not only in high school, but also in college and beyond. Mrs. Klontz, the new Swanson chorus director, taught formerly at Washington-Lee High School and received many well-trained singers from Swanson who were a mainstay of the choral program. Several went on to a career in music and all held Mrs. Broaddus in the highest regard.

The Broaddus Music Fund, established by her family to honor the memory of Flo Broaddus, has made a significant difference for choral students. Last year the fund supported the acquisition of a fine choral library. This year, funds were allocated to purchase a much-needed grand piano for the Swanson auditorium. The piano will be dedicated at the May 14th choral concert at 7 PM. Members of the family hope to attend. The U.S. Army Chorus will also perform at the concert, which is free and open to the public.

Spring Dates

Monday, May 12, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Men's Choral Festival with the U.S. Army Male Chorus in the Swanson Auditorium
(Any boy in grades 6-12 may attend.)
Informal concert at 8 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14, 7 PM

Spring Choral Concert with Special Guests U.S. Army Chorus and Arlington Men's Festival Chorus
Dedication of the Flo Broaddus Piano

Tuesday and Thursday, May 15 and 17, 2:30 – 4 PM

Choral rehearsals in the auditorium.
Last meeting of Captain's Crew for the year.

Saturday, May 17

Six Flags Music Competition and Day in the Park

– Cherie Kasch

A Banner Year for Swanson Scientists!

This has been a great school year for Swanson's student scientists, from the annual Swanson Science Fair in January to a regional science and engineering fair in March.

Swanson Annual Science Fair

In January, 58 7th and 8th grade Swanson students took part in our school's annual science fair. Students meet with three judges, had engaging conversations about their projects, and learned more about their chosen field of science. Our scientists did fantastic work! And the winners were...

First Place Winners

Engineering

Macrae Hanke

Sakis Ter Martirosyan

Environmental Science

Elle Hurst

Livia Polise

Chemistry

Calder Lowenthal

Sod-Uul Tuvshinsikhan

Vida Vousoghian

Nikolai Long

Shaina Brown

Physics

Sam O'Brian and Megan Wilkie

Liam David

Colette McCord-Snook

Second Place Winners

Botany

Juliana Clarkson and Juliettee Jacques

Behavioral and Social Sciences

Jalen Fontillas and Vinnie McGarry

Engineering and Computer Science

Ferris Linde and Justin Williams

Katerina Forrest

Chemistry

Diana Diaz and Alma Pekerti

Renee Dixon and Sienna Malhotra

Harold White

Physics

Dugan Messman

Shambhavi Ramaswamy

Julia Som

Hanna Xu

Bethlehem Dantie

Derek Martin

Ryan Edelstein

Third Place Winners

Botany

Grace Cogley

Sara Ray

Computer Science

Max Berger

Environmental Science

Claire Cofield and Gabi Fowler

Chemistry

May Granadeno and Shabnam Shah

Tyler Lee and Dalena Paz

Melanie Kasch

Physics

Mario Pineda

Kayla Waddy

Hanna Xue

Penn Bauman

Christian McCord-Snook

Honorable Mentions

Microbiology

Katherine Cobey

Chemistry

Abbos Alimov and Mike Usubyan

Gus Nathanson and Lucas Obey

Jackson Quinn and Liam Thompson

Emmanuel Sanchez and Rene Burgos

Physics

Wesley Stone

Northern Virginia Regional Science and Engineering Fair

Over a weekend in early March, young scientists from the area had a chance to showcase their projects during the Northern Virginia Regional Science and Engineer Fair at the County's new Wakefield High School. These students competed with high school students from the Northern Virginia area. Eighteen Swanson students participated and learned much from their experience. Our results are below. Congratulations to all who participated!

Best in Fair – Grades 7 and 8

Liam David – *The Effect of a Magnetic Field on Subatomic Muons – Physics*

First Place

Engineering

Sarkis Ter Martirosyan

Physics

Liam David

Second Place

Botany

Juliana Clarkson and Juliette Jacques

Chemistry

Calder Lowenthal

Shaina Brown

Physics

Julia Som

Megan Wilkie and Samantha O'Brien

Colette McCord-Snook

Third Place

Chemistry

Nikolai Long

Vida Vousoghian

Engineering

Macrae Hanke

Physics

Hanna Xu

Ryan Edelstein

Honorable Mention

Chemistry

Diana Diaz and Almasita Pekerti

Engineering

Justin Williams and Ferris Linde

Physics

Shambhavi Ramaswamy

— Mahi Savage, 7th Grade Life Science Teacher

Attention Rising 8th Graders Interested in Playing Football!

Did you know that Arlington County rules allow 8th graders to play high school freshman football as well as other sports not offered at their middle school? In previous years, many students have taken advantage of this opportunity to meet new students and coaches while getting a taste of high school life. If you are interested in receiving all football information, you can be placed on the football booster email list by submitting your request to ybs.football@aol.com.

If you think it is early to receive information about next football season, be aware that the football coaches are currently conducting weight training sessions. Yes, current 7th and 8th graders can attend in preparation for next year on Mondays from 4 – 6 PM, Wednesdays from 3 – 5 PM and Thursdays from 5 – 7 PM in the Yorktown High School weight room.

Here is some additional information for your planning purposes:

- Participants must provide a current VHSL physical form to the Yorktown Student Activities Office, room 109, by 8/1/2014. The VHSL form may be found in the Student Activities Office or on the Yorktown Sports website, www.yorktownsports.org, under FORMS.
- Physical examinations must have been done May 1, 2014 or later for the upcoming school year.
- During the school year, high school football practice begins at 3:15 PM and runs until approximately 6 PM. There is no transportation available from the middle schools, so you will have to accommodate transportation to and from practice.
- The only financial obligation is purchasing a girdle for hip pads for approximately \$45. Freshman and Junior Varsity games are typically on Thursdays. Other important dates include:
 - Parents meeting - 8/11/2014
 - Kick off dinner - 8/26/2014
 - First day of practice – the week of 8/11/2014 (TBD)

Please contact us today at ybs.football@aol.com to begin receiving all football information immediately.

— Mike and Carol Staples, Co-Presidents
Yorktown High School Football Boosters

Introducing Wavelength Online!

Swanson's student-led committee has begun collecting creative writing and art for our new online literary magazine.

Welcome to Swanson's online edition of the Wavelength Literary Magazine! We, the Wavelength Committee, are proud of this collection of creative work that is diverse and representative of our community's talent. Writing and art will be posted regularly, so we invite you to submit your pieces today.

Check back for [updates each week](#) and enjoy!

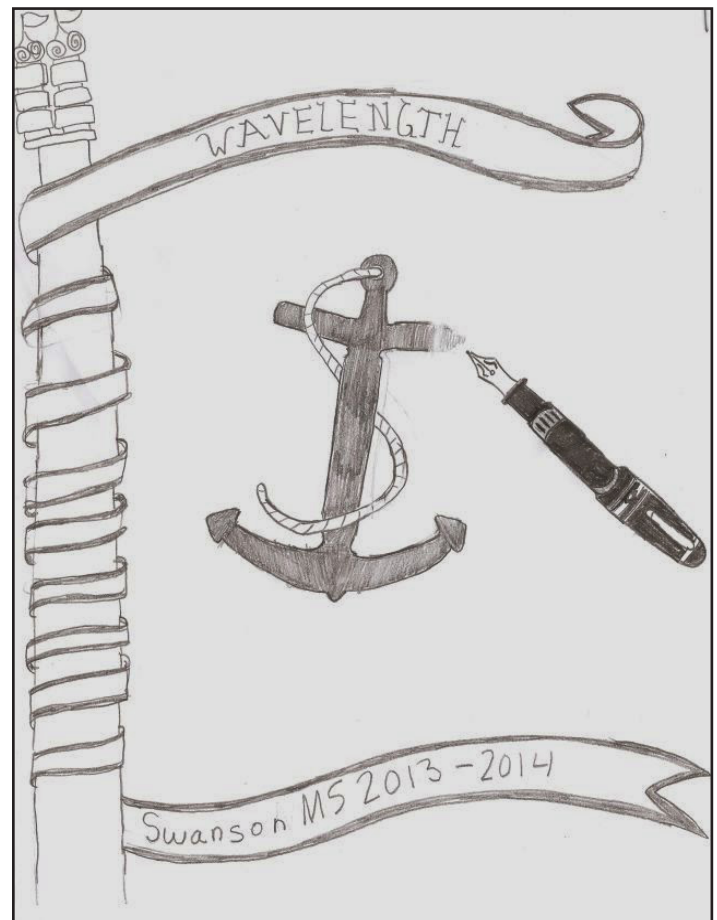


Illustration by Adam C.