

# Swanson Anchor

June 2015



## From the Principal's Desk

The end of the school year is time to say thank you, good-bye, and hello to different members of our school community. This school year has been a busy year filled with joys, rewards, and learning for our students, parents, teachers and staff. I thank our faculty and staff for the encouragement and guidance they provide to our students, to each other and to me. The Swanson staff is an amazing group of professionals who are dedicated to children. They give numerous hours to planning and presenting lessons, grading, planning field trips, tutoring, sponsoring clubs, coaching sports teams, attending after-school activities and so much more. They are the living embodiment of our Swanson statement:

### We are Swanson Admirals.

We are **Scholarship** — striving to think deeply and open our minds.

We are **Service** — connecting to one another, our community, and to the world.

We are **Spirit** — celebrating our successes, ourselves, and our school.

### We are Swanson Admirals.

We say goodbye to Dana Cazan (Sea Hawks English teacher), Daphne Birdsinger, (Tropical Cyclones English teacher), Laura Baxter (Math 8 & Geometry teacher), Nicole Cunningham (Math 8 teacher), Emily Halley (Sea Hawks Social Studies teacher), Ackesha Cathirell (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade special education teacher), Amy Hodge

*(Continued on page 2)*

## From the PTA

As the 2014-15 school year draws to a close, I want to thank our Executive Board for their unfailing support and commitment to our students, faculty and staff at Swanson: Vice President Karen Hancox, Treasurer Teresa Foor, and Secretary Lynn Gant. We only just came together at the very end of last year but made a great team. Without what they did month in and month out, we never would have accomplished all we did this year.

Speaking of accomplishments, a few highlights of our year: We had record turnout at the monthly meetings, as we featured speakers who came to discuss topics requested by our parents; our largest fundraiser of the year, HANDMADE ARLINGTON, attracted more artists and many more visitors than ever before, achieving prestige and precedent for a bright future; we showed our support for teachers who worked each quarter on days our students stayed home by bringing breakfasts and treats supplied by many parents; we celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week with gifts and prizes and meals and treats all week; we sold more Swanson Spirit Gear by updating the catalog, featuring new items that appealed to kids and parents alike; we funded a second

*(Continued on page 2)*

## June 2015

- 4 School Board Meeting  
7:30 pm, 1426 N. Quincy St.
- 5 Spring Band Concert, 7:00 pm
- 9 PTA meeting, 7:00 pm  
Swanson Talent Show  
7:00 pm
- 11 Spring Sports Banquet  
6:00 pm
- 12 Spring Instrumental Music  
Concert, 7:00 pm
- 17 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion  
Ceremony, 8:30 am  
  
Community Meetings to  
Discuss Capacity Solutions for  
Swanson, 7:00 pm
- 18 Last Day of School  
Early release

### PTA Board

President: Tish Jenkins  
[tishjenkins@gmail.com](mailto:tishjenkins@gmail.com)

Vice President: Karen Hancox  
[hancoxk@gmail.com](mailto:hancoxk@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Teresa Foor  
[tfloor@comcast.net](mailto:tfloor@comcast.net)

Secretary: Lynn Gant  
[lynngant@mac.com](mailto:lynngant@mac.com)

### Anchor Staff

Editor: Kathy Stokes  
[kathy@ksmcom.com](mailto:kathy@ksmcom.com)

Designer and Publisher:  
Kelly Rindfusz  
[krindfusz@arlingtonva.us](mailto:krindfusz@arlingtonva.us)

Principal: Bridget Loft  
703-228-5501  
Front Office: 703-228-5500  
Attendance Line: 703-228-5506

Swanson Website:  
[www.apsva.us/swanson](http://www.apsva.us/swanson)

E-groups:  
[Swanson-pta@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Swanson-pta@yahoogroups.com)

Follow us on Twitter:  
[@SwansonAdmirals](https://twitter.com/SwansonAdmirals)

---

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

(Tropical Cyclones Science teacher) and Hari Regmi (custodian) who are moving on to new adventures. We will miss them and wish them well.

Thank you to all our parents and PTA members led by president Tish Jenkins, vice president Karen Hancox, treasurer Teresa Foor, and Lynn Gant, secretary. The generosity of the PTA afforded our teachers opportunities to apply for grants to support extra activities in the classroom. Many of the learning experiences available to our children are because of parents who volunteer their time and energy. We appreciate the commitment all our parents give to the school and look forward to working together next year.

Congratulations and good luck to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. We hope they enjoy high school and the adventures that await them ahead. We will miss these admirable admirals and their families. We wish our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders a great summer. Please check the Swanson website at [www.apsva.us/swanson](http://www.apsva.us/swanson) for start-of-school information, and remember to complete your summer reading and math review packets.

Finally, we say hello and welcome to all students and families new to Swanson. We are so glad you will be joining our learning community! You will be receiving lots of information throughout the summer. Please contact the school if you have any questions. We wish everyone a restful summer full of family activities and time together. Please make reading a part of the summer. Enjoy!

— *Bridget Loft, Principal*

---

### **From the PTA** *(Continued from page 1)*

section of "Challenge Racism through Courageous Conversations" in an effort to eliminate the Achievement Gap by learning more about this critical issue.

There is so much more I could highlight, but suffice it to say, Swanson parents are engaged and helpful and generally fantastic. So whether you sent a donation, supplied time or talent to a particular effort, or just got your child to school on time well rested and well fed, you all ROCK. Thanks for making my job easy!

Next year, I'm glad to report, our PTA will be under completely new leadership. We expect the PTA Officers to

be Noah Simon as President, Monique "Moe" Brown as Treasurer, Zoe O'Neil as Vice President, and Madelon Brennan as Secretary/PR/ Communications, and Anne Heinrich will spearhead fundraising. This team is extremely well positioned to take what we've been doing, and bring it to a new level. Elections will be at the June 9 meeting, at 6:30 pm before the Talent Show.

Many of our important committees and positions are not yet filled for next year. Though we need help on virtually every committee, those that need leadership are as listed below. Please reach out to me at [tishjenkins@gmail.com](mailto:tishjenkins@gmail.com) or Noah Simon at [noah\\_simon@verizon.net](mailto:noah_simon@verizon.net) if you want more information or can help with one of these committees.

Joining the Swanson PTA List Serve to keep up on what is happening at Swanson is easy. Simply send an email to [swanson-pta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:swanson-pta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) from the email address to which you want to receive PTA emails. To see descriptions of the committees, go to [www.apsva.us/swanson](http://www.apsva.us/swanson) under the PTA tab.

First Day Packets - WE HAVE A CHAIR BUT WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS! PLEASE HELP WITH THIS ONE-DAY EFFORT.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Dance Party

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Reception

ACI

Anchor Editor

Anchor Layout

Auditor

Book Fair

CCPTA Liaison

In-Service/Teacher Work Day Breakfasts

Odyssey of the Mind

Science Fair

Science Fair Dinner

Sports Banquets

Volunteer Coordinator

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as the Swanson PTA President. I made new friends, got to know more about the workings of our school and found more to talk to my teen about over dinner! Thank you for all your support this year. As we move on to Washington-Lee next year, we'll miss our days of Middle School while embracing our new challenges. Have a great summer.

— *Tish Jenkins, Swanson PTA President*

# Math Placement for Next School Year

---

All current 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be involved in math placement testing in June. These test results are just one piece of data that a committee of math teachers, administrators, and representatives from the Ed Center will look at when determining the recommended math placement for the student next year. Other factors include current year grades, teacher recommendations, and SOL scores if available. Parents of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be informed of the recommendation some time in later June, most likely via a letter with the final report card (8<sup>th</sup> grade students received their high school placements back in January). Rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will do placement testing at their elementary school. Initial placement decisions for rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders will also be determined by a committee in June using similar criteria as the other grade levels and a letter will communicate the math placement recommendation.

Please recognize that the key pre-algebra concepts are now fully included in the math 6 and math 7 courses (as well as in earlier grades). Most students, including strong math students, will be recommended for their grade level course in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The county won't recommend skipping the grade level course unless a student clearly demonstrates that he or she has already mastered that material. The grade level material is important for a solid math foundation, which will contribute to greater success with algebra. Under the current math curriculum, a student who successfully completes math 6 and math 7 is expected to be ready to take algebra as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader.

There are opportunities in summer school for students who need extra math help or want math enrichment activities. In the fall we will test new students as well as do a baseline diagnostic for all students. Students showing sufficient mathematical growth over the summer will have their recommendation changed in the fall if appropriate.

Many of our rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and some 7<sup>th</sup> graders, will qualify to take algebra next year. If your child is not one of them, please do not panic. Remember that algebra is still considered a high school credit course. Algebra also involves abstract concepts and developmentally some students are still very concrete thinkers in middle school. If you think about the various hats you might wear: parent, employee, homeowner, to name a few, most of the math skills that you use regularly are pre-algebra skills.

For example, having a solid understanding of percents and fractions is important when you're shopping for bargains, trying to determine how much carpet you need in your living room, or doubling your recipe. Pre-algebra classes are students' opportunities to learn and master the concepts that all of them will use as adults. Students taking math 8 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade are still on track to earn an advanced studies diploma.

If you have any questions about math placement, either now or after you find out your child's recommended placement, please do not hesitate to call or email me, Laura Partridge, [Laura.Partridge@apsva.us](mailto:Laura.Partridge@apsva.us). Please expect a delay in my response during the summer as I'm not at school. However, I anticipate that I'll be able to return most emails within a week (calls may take longer if I'm out of town). Thanks and enjoy your summer!

— Laura Partridge, Math Coach

## Announcing Swanson's Summer Reading Club!

---

Did you know that even reading five books throughout the summer prevents learning loss? Is your child's "to-read" stack getting low? The Swanson Library is trying something new this summer — we are hosting an online summer reading club! All Swanson students are welcome to join. The purpose is to share new books we are reading with each other, collect ideas for what to read next, and keep the momentum to read going throughout the summer. There are no reading lists or assigned reading, simply reading for pleasure to encourage the development of life-long readers. We are using Blackboard to facilitate this club.

Encourage students to keep reading throughout the summer — visit our Summer Reading page for information about our Swanson online book club described above, and also Arlington Public Library's summer reading program at <http://apsva.us/domain/5083>. Please also visit <http://apsva.us/Page/28172> for information about accessing our eBook collection, which is available 24-7, all summer long.

Students, follow these steps to join the Swanson Summer Reading Club:

1. Log into Blackboard.
2. Once logged in, next to "APS Blackboard" is a link called "Classes." Click on "Classes."
3. In the Class Search box, type: "Swanson Summer Reading 2015" and click "Go."

4. The Class ID will appear (Swanson\_Summer\_Reading).
5. Hover your mouse over the class ID and a gray down arrow will appear. Click on the gray down arrow to get the option to enroll. Click on “Enroll” and you will get a Self Enrollment page; click “Submit.”
6. Now when you click on “APS Blackboard” at the top to get back to your main page (and when you log in the next time), the course will appear under your “My Classes” section, in the “Classes where you are: Student” area.

We hope to see you online!

— Tammy Metz and Amy Hailey, Swanson Librarians

## FAQs for World Languages

---

1. **What languages are offered at Swanson?**  
Swanson offers Latin, French and Spanish. Chinese and Arabic are offered as distance learning classes. Distance learning classes are offered online with instructional teachers visiting on a regular basis.
2. **When are students eligible to study a language?**  
Sixth grade students may take Foundations of Latin, French or Spanish. Level one language is offered to 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.
3. **Does a world language class count as a high school credit?**  
Yes, level one and level two are each worth one high school credit. Therefore, a student could finish 8<sup>th</sup> grade with two high school language credits.
4. **How are the Foundations classes different from the Level One classes?**  
Foundations of Language classes are offered every other day. The class offers exposure to the language and culture of the target language. Students who take this class do not earn high school credit but receive language exposure that will help prepare them for high school credit language study in subsequent years.
5. **What is the difference between Transitional Spanish and Foundations of Spanish?**  
Transitional Spanish is for students who come from FLES schools. Foundations of Spanish is meant for

students with a little or no prior knowledge, but receive language exposure that will help prepare them for high school credit language study in subsequent years.

### 6. How much work outside of the classroom is involved?

Language classes are rigorous high school classes and students should expect to spend 3-5 hours a week studying and doing homework.

### 7. How are students assessed?

Students are assessed on proper use of grammar and structure through writing, speaking, and real life scenarios such as skits. Students take a midterm and final exam with five different components: writing, reading comprehension, speaking, essential questions, and listening comprehension.

### 8. What materials do students need?

Arlington County provides a workbook for students to use and keep. Textbooks are available in class and online. Teachers ask that students come prepared with a notebook, or a reserved section in their binder for notes and classwork.

### 9. Is level three language an option?

Not at the middle school level. Students may continue with levels three through five, including AP language courses at the high school level.

— Billie Vaslavsky, World Languages Teacher

## After-School Activities

---

As this school year wraps up, it is never too early to begin preparing for next year’s after-school activities! At Swanson, students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of extracurricular clubs, teams, and organizations. These activities are provided for the most part during After-School Period 1(ASP 1) from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm. At 3:30, walkers and students being picked up will be dismissed to go home. Bus riders can stay in a supervised open gym setting until the late buses depart at 4:21 pm. These buses do not follow the regular routes, but transport students as close as possible to their regular stops. Students staying after school may not leave the school grounds and return to ride the late bus.

## Clubs/Co-Curricular Organizations

Teachers and volunteers offer many after-school programs to meet the varied interests of our students. Students staying after school for enrichment, academic support, clubs, co-curricular organizations, or other activities are required to check in with the activity sponsor. Have an idea for a great new club? We'd love to help you organize it. Contact Mr. Holland to get your ideas off the ground. Some of our most popular clubs were created by groups of students with shared interests, so don't hesitate! During the second week of school, we will hold an after school activities fair, where you can explore all of the clubs, sports, and other organizations to see what suits you! For an up-to-date list of clubs with descriptions, please visit our website: <http://www.apsva.us/swanson>.

## Interscholastic Sports

Sports are available to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. A current physical examination dated within the calendar year of the sport's season is required for participation in all interscholastic sports. If you are planning on participating in sports at the high school level, they require your physical to be dated after May 1, 2015. You may want to get the appointment out of the way over the summer, so you will be able to try out for any sport next year! Forms are available in the school clinic or online at <http://www.apsva.us/swanson> (click on Athletics, then Forms). To allay some confusion, note that we use the Virginia High School League form in order to facilitate transition to high school sports.

### Sports include:

- Co-ed Swimming (No try-outs)
- Co-ed Diving (No try-outs)
- Boys' and Girls' Soccer (Try-outs required)
- Boys' and Girls' Basketball (Try-outs required)
- Wrestling (No try-outs)
- Co-ed Tennis (Try-outs required)
- Co-ed Track (No try-outs)

Practices are usually held Monday through Friday from 2:24 pm to 4:15 pm. However, coaches will distribute their specific practice schedules to athletes at the beginning of each season.

For students who participate in sports, a sports bus is provided following sports events only on game days. This bus also drops off students as close as possible to their regular stops.

## Schedule

The following schedule of sports for the 2014-15 school year is tentative. For the most up-to-date information, please check the Swanson website. For additional information, or if you have any questions, please call the activities director, Mr. Holland, at 703-228-5510 or e-mail him at [trevor.holland@apsva.us](mailto:trevor.holland@apsva.us).

- **September:** Tennis, Girls' Soccer, Diving, Cheerleading
- **October:** Boys' Soccer, Girls' Basketball
- **January:** Boys' Basketball, Wrestling
- **February:** Swimming
- **March:** Track

— Trevor Holland, Activities Coordinator

## The Latest in Latin

After a really great year all around, two Swanson Latin students –Natalie Chin and Claire Cofield – topped off the year by placing 5<sup>th</sup> in the State Final Certamen (Classical quiz bowl contest)! The competition at these contests is always really tough and I was especially proud of these two as they were the top middle school to place overall, beaten only by teams from Flint Hill Upper School, TJHSST (team A...our Swanson team placed ahead of the second TJ team!), Wakefield County Day School, and Classical Cottage.



*Natalie C. and Claire C. with 5<sup>th</sup> place trophy at the Virginia State Latin Certamen Finals, sporting their "Persevere and Endure" Ts.*

Finally, I'd like to take the opportunity to say that I will miss *all* my 8<sup>th</sup> graders next year and want to wish them all the very best in high school.

Avete atque valete.

— Melanie Stowell, Latin Teacher

## Art Reception a Success!

On Wednesday, May 27, the Swanson Middle School Art Department held its fourth Art Reception for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Visual Arts Students in the cafeteria. The artwork was displayed individually on black display boards, and more than 70 students participated in this art opening. The artwork included oil pastels, soft pastels, watercolor, charcoal, graphite, color pencil, tempera and acrylic painting, printmaking, collage and zentangle. Each student chose their favorite works to be displayed on the boards and a wide variety of subject matter was presented.



Thank you for all who helped make this event a great success!

— Cecily Corcoran, Visual Arts Teacher



## Glazed Tiles A Sight to Behold

Eighth grade Visual Art students glazed 150 tiles that were then mounted in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade World Geography Hallway. The tiles were glazed in the Moroccan style that introduced a variety of artistic techniques to Spain and later all of Europe. The style included a unique way of painting ceramic tiles called 'Zellige' (or 'azulejo' in Spanish and Portuguese) that consists of complex geometrical forms.

— Cecily Corcoran, Visual Arts Teacher

## Swanson Scientists Present Their Papers

Congratulations to Eric Dunham, Rose Duane, Samantha Haga, Hannah Rosman, Calder Lowenthal, Scott Larsen, Daniil Usubyan, Natalie Chin, Karuna Sinha, Kiriil Usubyan, Caitlin Anderson and Bree Myer for their outstanding presentation of their research papers at the state-wide Virginia Junior Academy of Sciences (VJAS) competition this past week at James Madison University. Special congratulations go to Calder Lowenthal for placing 3rd in Engineering and Mathematics. Way to go Swanson Scientists!

— Amy Hodge, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher



## A Chorus Recap

---

The Swanson Chorus has had an exciting year including performing on the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, sending many students to regional, state and national honor choruses and winning the Grand Championship Award at the King's Dominion Choral Competition in May!

Throughout the year, the chorus learned about the culture of the people who originated the songs in their concerts with a special focus on foreign language songs. Three songs brought about very personal connections.

One singer learned the Chinese folk song, Moh li hwah, (Jasmine Flower) in Chinese class and helped her classmates learn the pronunciation. Chorus parent, Mrs. Grace Chang, learned this song from her mother and came in to share her perspective.

Okro Mch'edelo (O Goldsmith) is a very old song from the Republic of Georgia. Mr. Kiknadze, chorus parent, is from Georgia. He explained the metaphors in the lyrics and taught the song to the students. Several students from Georgia attend Swanson and were delighted to hear a song in their language at Multi-Cultural night.

Finally, the chamber treble chorus sang the song, Gunjo (Azure) in Japanese. The song is about the aftermath of the 2012 Fukushima earthquake in Japan. Middle School students in Japan wrote poems about their hope for being reunited with family and their chorus teacher set the text to music. A bi-lingual student in the class taught the students how to speak the words and Specialist Bryan Stenson, of the U.S. Army Voices, visited the class to help with singing in Japanese. A woman from Fukushima attended the concert and was incredibly moved by the performance. She contacted her friends who still live there and got the e-mail address of the composer. The chorus composed a letter and we are waiting for the reply.

Mrs. Klontz discovered the songs above while attending the National Choral Director's Conference.

— *Mary-Hannah Klontz, Swanson Chorus Teacher*

## End of Year Math Wrap-Up

---

### **Math Month Activities**

In order to celebrate April as math month at Swanson, students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities. The most popular was the weekly ken ken challenges. We had hundreds of Swanson students participate! All students who did at least one of the weekly challenges received a colorful smiley pencil eraser. Additionally, students who submitted complete and accurate math puzzles were entered into a random drawing and had a chance to win ken ken puzzle books and various math supplies. Lunch games of math dice were also held and students had a chance to compete against each other and win prizes. Each math dice participant received either a springy pen or smiley squeeze ball. All the prizes were courtesy of a PTA grant.

### **MathCounts**

There was an earlier Anchor article with more details about MathCounts. The club is open to any student interested in math problem solving. The major MathCounts news since the last Anchor article was that Swanson earned Gold Level MathCounts Club status! This year the requirement was for the team to create six math games. The students created their own ken ken puzzle, math crossword puzzle, Sudoku puzzle, math dice game, math card game, and a math board game. There were fewer than 150 school clubs that earned this designation, including only nine schools in Virginia. Great job, Swanson!

### **STEM Night**

Swanson held a STEM night in the middle of May for parents and students. The first part of the evening included an awards ceremony for students who were recognized for their commitment to science, technology, and/or mathematics. The latter part of the event, which was open to the entire Swanson community, included interactive STEM games and activities, STEM organization displays, and student demonstrations.

— *Laura Partridge, Math Coach*

# Track Team Summary

We had about 200 students participate in track this season. Student athletes who participated for more than a few practices will be awarded track certificates at the annual spring sports banquet in June. In addition, some of these athletes will be awarded track letters for having been identified as potential county participants and participating actively in track practices throughout the season.

Swanson participated in the county track and field championship in early May. The team came in 4<sup>th</sup> place, within striking distance of the top three teams. All Swanson track participants should be proud of their effort. The following individuals placed in the top five in their age group (or top three for team relays) for the events noted:

## 5th place:

Long Jump: **Shambhavi Ramaswamy**  
70 Meter Sprint: **Clemens Finger**

## 4th place:

High Jump: **Caroline Hamilton** and **Sabrina Shuster**  
50 Meter Sprint: **Jay La Piana**  
800 Meter Run: **Victor Hugo**

## 3rd place:

50 Meter Sprint: **Charles Male**  
70 Meter Sprint: **Sarah Superata**  
400 Meter Run: **Brenna Meehan**  
600 Meter Run: **Kate Ford** and **Colin Meek**  
800 Meter Run: **Lily Harp**  
200 meter relay team of **Ben Adams, Aidan Burnside, Francisco Camacho, and Liam O'Casey**

## 2nd place:

High Jump: **Sarah Superata**  
Long Jump: **Nell Griesmer** and **Liam McBride**

## County champions:

High Jump: **Maeve Marsh** and **Brendan Rindfusz**  
Long Jump: **Lily Harp** and **Jay La Piana**  
50 Meter Sprint: **Liam McBride**  
600 Meter Run: **Cate Whitehouse**  
800 Meter Run: **Maeve Marsh**

Thanks to all the parents and staff who attended or helped at the meets. A special thank you to Larry Seals who dedicated numerous hours to helping out at practices whenever he was available.

Looking ahead to next year, any student may participate in track, which typically is a six-week season that starts generally in late March. For next season, students will need an approved physical dated after May 1, 2015. There are also some other forms required at the start of track season and students must maintain academic eligibility.

— *Laura Partridge, Track Coach with Ackesha Cathirell, Dana Cazan, Leah McFarlane, and Kevin Treakle*

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### Counseling Team for 2015-2016

As we wrap up a productive school year, the Swanson counseling department is planning for next year. The 2015-2016 counselor configuration will be as follows:

Hillary Hawes:

Schooners (6<sup>th</sup> grade) & Voyagers (7<sup>th</sup> grade)

Laura Goodwyn:

Clippers (6<sup>th</sup> grade) & Sea Hawks (6<sup>th</sup> grade)

Judy Jankowski:

Mariners (7<sup>th</sup> grade) & Captains (7<sup>th</sup> grade)

Chrissy Reardon:

Typhoons (8<sup>th</sup> grade)

Michelle Wilkes:

Hurricanes (8<sup>th</sup> grade) & Tropical Cyclones (8<sup>th</sup> grade)

We look forward to working with you next year!

### Minority Achievement

Congratulations to Swanson students Daniel Martinez, Angel Martinez, Hannah Rosman, and Nancy Villatoro, whose Words Out Loud poetry submissions were recently published in the Office of Minority Achievement newsletter, *The Achiever*. This edition of *The Achiever* featured literary submissions from Arlington Public Schools students based on the theme "Black Lives Matter." *The Achiever* (Spring 2015) can be found here: <http://www.apsva.us/cms/lib2/VA01000586/Centricity/Domain/121/Spring%202015.pdf>



The Latina Youth Leading at Swanson (LYLAS) club practiced their engineering and leadership skills by building structures using only marshmallows, uncooked pasta, and one piece of tape!



\* See "Anchor" articles from November 2014 – May 2015 to view prior steps in the Special Education Cycle. Does my child continue to remain eligible for services until he/she finishes high school?

## Reevaluation (Eligibility)

**What:** Every three years, each student receiving special education services must be reevaluated to determine continued eligibility in special education. The requirements for this triennial reevaluation differ from those of the original eligibility. Reevaluations focus on the area of the student's disability and do not necessarily repeat all the evaluations required for the original eligibility. At each school, the staff reviews the student's performance levels at the last eligibility and makes a decision regarding which evaluation components are to be gathered for the triennial reevaluation. You are informed of the suggested areas of assessment. Your comments and suggestions regarding these assessment areas are welcomed and encouraged. Once the evaluations are completed, you are invited to the Eligibility Committee Meeting.

**Who:** Your local special education staff.

**When:** The reevaluation must be completed on or before the third anniversary date of the previous eligibility meeting.

**What Happens Next:** Your child remains eligible for special education and a new IEP is developed, or your child no longer requires special education services.

**Documents I Should Keep:** The "reevaluation eligibility packet" which contains all of the assessment reports. You will also receive the Minutes of the Eligibility Committee Meeting, which summarize the findings of the committee.

*Please look for highlights of topics related to special education services in future issues. You can also view this information on the APS Office of Special Education website: <http://www.apsva.us/Page/2865>*

## Special Education Corner

---

### Special Education Cycle

*The Eligibility Process for Your Child to Become Eligible to Receive Special Education Services*

"Before your child can become eligible to receive special education services, the school is required by law to determine your child's specific needs. The school determines these needs through a process consisting of many steps, often termed the "Special Education Cycle." When viewed as an ongoing cycle with several steps along the way, the special education process is easier to understand."



**Swanson Middle School**

*Home of the Admirals*

5800 N. Washington Blvd. • Arlington, VA 22205 • 703-228-5500

[www.apsva.us/swanson](http://www.apsva.us/swanson) • Twitter: @SwansonAdmirals