



Photo courtesy of SSSAS

31 students, parents and teachers gathered on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to gather waste along Timber Branch Stream.

ST. STEPHENS AND ST. AGNES ADOPT THREE URBAN STREAMS SCHOOL COMMUNITY COLLECTS WASTE ON MLK DAY

As part of its concern for storm water running from its campuses, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School has adopted three urban streams and will be their caretakers.

On Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, 31 members of the St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School community collected 60 pounds of waste from a one-half

mile of Timber Branch, which is the Lower School's watershed. In addition to the Lower School effort, SSSAS Middle School has adopted Lucky Run, and Upper School adopted Strawberry Run and will hold their own clean-up days this winter.

St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School has over a decade-long history of pursuing

environmental sustainability in its school and has decreased its internal carbon emissions by 41% since 2007. St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School was awarded the City's Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence award in 2016, as well as status as a national Green Ribbon School for the Middle School in 2016.

NEW BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR APPOINTED TO ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD

The Alexandria City School Board Has Voted to Re-Appoint Ramee Gentry to the Position of Chair of the Board and Cindy Anderson to Vice Chair of the Board for the Next Year.

"I am looking forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to bring much-needed capacity to our schools and ensure the ACPS 2020



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The Child and Family Network Centers

would like to thank our 2017-2018 Adopt-A-Classroom Sponsors.



We truly appreciate you.

Catie Meyer | David and Diann Frantz



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SCHOOL BRIEFS

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Alexandria Library Staff Visits Doctors' Offices for Bi-Lingual Outreach

One of the most formidable aspects of public library work is reaching out to community members who are not current library users. This challenge can be made more daunting when trying to reach immigrant and non-English speaking populations who may not be present at more typical outreach events like back-to-school nights. Meeting these groups where they are is important as many times they have not previously used libraries and are not sure what services we provide or if they are able to get a library card.



Photo: Diana Price, Alexandria Library

To bridge this gap, Alexandria Library staff members have been visiting a local doctor's office in a low-income Hispanic neighborhood for the last three years. Every Monday morning at 8:30am, Patricia Amaya and Christian Reynolds arrive wearing aprons embroidered with the library logo to engage parents and children while they wait for their appointments.

Patricia, a native Spanish speaker, talks with adults about what the library offers, focusing on programs that may interest them most like ESL classes, passport services, and Spanish language resources. Using an iPad, Patricia can show our library website and how to log into databases like Odillo and Mango Languages. She also carries a binder full of Spanish language flyers about library programs, services, and databases to give to those interested.

Meanwhile, Christian engages the children through books, which range from board books to longer stories to search and find books. Interacting with children of many ages each week, she makes sure she has books to fit a variety of interests and language abilities. Children often are looking for entertainment as they wait and eagerly circle around Christian, choosing books from her basket that interest them most. Depending on the group, sometimes Christian will read the text of a book, talk with the children about the pictures, or sing songs and nursery rhymes with them.

"While connecting with new partners for outreach programs can be difficult, we found that the doctor's office was eager to work with us. Even before we approached them, they had been promoting the importance of reading and giving free books to families with babies through the Reach Out and Read program. We were a natural fit as we complemented the services they were already providing," said Diana Price, program coordinator.

"The impact of our weekly doctor's office outreach is hard to quantify, but many people with whom Patricia and Christian have spoken have shared that they are now library patrons because of their conversations. The biggest reasons they shared for not using the library before are that they didn't know what we offered and were intimidated to visit since their countries didn't have libraries, barriers that our outreach has successfully overcome," Price continued.

For more information on the initiative, please visit alexlibraryva.org or contact Diana Price at 703-746-1735.

Civil Rights Activist Visits Alexandria Country Day School

Students at Alexandria Country Day School were fortunate to have civil rights activist, Joan Trumpauer Mulholland visit the School on January 17th. Mrs. Mulholland read "She Stood for Freedom," a picture book about her life, to students in kindergarten through second grade. She also met with students in grades 3 to 8, sharing her experiences at lunch counter sit-ins, as a Freedom Rider, at the March on Washington, and more. She told the students that anyone can make a difference, you just have to do what you know is right. "We strive

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