

# Foundation Footings



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## Grants Committee Awards Two Projects

The Foundation is pleased to be funding the following projects:

### Families Read Aloud Together Mt Daniel

Carol Monsess, a Mt. Daniel teacher, says that "Reading is one of the most important things being taught at Mt. Daniel." The ability to read is crucial for all aspects of earning for students. Furthermore, children who have been read to at home, an activity often called "lap time," come to school with an

advantage over students who have not had this experience. Vocabulary, listening, and retelling skills are all enhanced by "lap time" experiences. Today's families are very busy and "lap time" is not always a priority.

The *Families Read Aloud Together* program fosters parents reading aloud to children at home. The program provides books which will be sent home in January with each



kindergarten and first grade student to be read aloud with their parents and/or guardians. Activities and book discussions will be held in school. For those students whose parents are not proficient in reading English, audio books and players will be provided.

## A Great Time to Give New Tax Legislation Encourages Charitable Contributions This Year

New Tax Relief Legislation has suspended the limitations on itemized deductions for qualified charitable contributions through the end of the year. Individuals can deduct up to 100% of their 2005 taxable income for cash gifts made to qualified charities from August 28, 2005 through December 31, 2005.

Specifically, qualifying gifts are not subject to the rule that reduces an individual's itemized deductions by 3% of the amount by which adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds \$145,950. Additionally, qualifying gifts are not subject to the 50% of AGI limitation that usually applies to cash gifts to qualified charities.

Qualified charities are public charities which include churches, schools, hospitals, community foundations, conservation organizations, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and many others. The Falls Church Education Foundation qualifies as a public charity.

Please consider reducing your 2005 Federal Income Tax Liability by giving to the Falls Church Education Foundation before December 31, 2005. For further information please contact Donna Englander at the Foundation, (703) 538-3381 or [denglander@fcedf.org](mailto:denglander@fcedf.org) and/or your financial advisor.

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On-Line Giving Available for Year-End Gifts  
at [www.fcedf.org](http://www.fcedf.org)

**FOUNDATION FOOTINGS**



Artist **Kevin Reese** performing *A Perfect Balance*, a multi-media adventure inspired by the works of American Artist Alexander Calder. Music-animated circus sculpture and projected works of modern art compliment his dynamic performance.  
*Photo courtesy of Kevin Reese, SchoolSculptures*

**More Class of 2005 Stats**  
**155 Graduates**

Diplomas Awarded  
 91 Advanced Studies  
 59 Standard  
 5 Other

20 International Baccalaureate Candidates

Scholars Commended  
 22 George Mason  
 15 Valedictory  
 1 National Merit Semi-Finalist  
 7 National Merit Commended

SAT Averages (out of 1600 points)  
 1167 GMHS  
 1030 Virginia  
 1028 National

**Grants Committee Awards Two Projects** (continued)

**Artist-In-Residence: Sculptures and Mobiles**  
 Mary Ellen Henderson MS

This grant provides funding for an artist-in-residency that involves all middle school students in a collaborative, artistic learning experience, one that will result in an Alexander Calder inspired

mobile for the entrance of the new school. Additionally, there are opportunities for art experiences in the classroom which supplement the regular art curriculum. The artist, Kevin Reese of SchoolSculptures, performed at an opening assembly on the first day of school. His performance *A Perfect Balance* served as an introduction to the students

about the creative process and illustrated what one of these mobiles might look like upon completion. He has also hosted workshops for students to design and build their own mobile. Kevin will take the creative ideas of the students and design a mobile to be installed in the school entrance in December.

**Congrats, Madiha Khan**  
 The 2005 J. Roger Wollenberg Memorial Scholarship Recipient

The Foundation's J. Roger Wollenberg Memorial Scholarship provides an annual, renewable scholarship for a George Mason High School senior to attend a higher education institute in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The family of J. Roger Wollenberg was pleased to award this past year's scholarship to Madiha Khan.

center, for a Katrina Relief project and at *Jumpstart* teaching health and hygiene to pre-schoolers. She is also active with the UVA Indian Student Association.

For Madiha, life at UVA is "awesome." She shares a suite with ten other students who she "just adores."

She has handled the big adjustment between high school and college very well learning many new time-management skills. She has gained a better understanding of herself as a student and has enjoyed encountering a greater diversity of people, ideas, and values.



Scholarship recipient, **Madiha Khan** (left), after the 2005 GMHS graduation with her best friend, Hasina Rahina

Best wishes for your continued success, Madiha. Please stay in touch!



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**Creative Pizzas for Creative Teachers**



ZPizza of 1051 W. Broad Street (next to the party store) is



proud to support the Falls Church Education Foundation.

Eat pizza on any Monday or Tuesday, mention any of our schools or

the Foundation, then ZPizza will donate a portion of your purchase to the Foundation to support funding for teacher grants.

See you there!

# Falls Church Education Foundation Donors

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Anonymous - Children's Table  
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Anonymous - TJ OM Team  
Trip to World Competition

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Louis T. Olom

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Renee and Bill Andrews \*  
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\* FCEF Board Member

We endeavor to insure the accuracy of this listing. Please call the Foundation office with corrections or omissions at (703) 538-3381



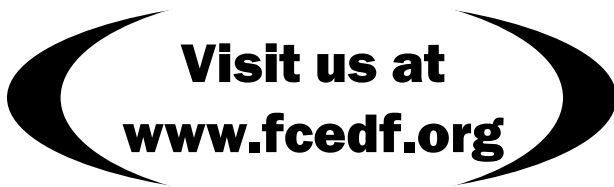
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**EDUCATION IS AT THE  
HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY**



## GMHS International Baccalaureate in Review

By Peter Behr, father of three GMHS graduates; his wife Marty chaired the school committee that advocated instituting the IB Program

For two decades, the International Baccalaureate Program, with its demanding curriculum and focus on learning, has been the crown jewel of the Falls Church City Public Schools.

But is the curriculum at the city's George Mason High School – anchored in the IB program – meeting the needs and wants of its students?

The school administration has hired educational consultant David Roylance to help seek the answer. Roylance, a former Fairfax County IB coordinator, has been interviewing students, teachers, administrators and parents since June, and is expected to submit a report on the "health" of the IB program by January.

Roylance's inquiry is a response to some Falls Church parents who question the current curriculum choices and ask

whether the AP program may do more for their college-bound children.

"This is hot topic with a lot of parents, with a lot of different opinions out there," said Ron Peppe, president of the George Mason Parent Teacher Student Association. "Parents want the review to look at how well the IB program is doing, and really look at alternatives," he said.

The AP program is the standard option at American high schools. Students who score well on an AP exam usually can bypass the corresponding freshman level college course, shortening the costly college timetable.

George Mason students can pursue an IB Diploma, covering six subject groups and a course in the "Theory of Knowledge," or IB certificates in individual courses. Both the IB diploma and certificates are accepted for advanced credit at many universities and

colleges, but many more institutions recognize the older AP process.

This year, there are over 200 students in the George Mason IB program out of 300 in the junior and senior classes, with 27 seniors currently candidates for the IB diploma. The high school also offers AP and college preparatory courses and classes for non-native speakers of English.

It is the IB program that has put the George Mason program on a higher plane, says the high school's IB Coordinator Brian Dickson. "Today we teachers are preparing our students for a future that is not our future. ..The answer isn't creating a vessel full of today's knowledge. We have to prepare the vessel to receive knowledge."

Whether that is the best formula is the question before the school system and the community.

The Falls Church Education Foundation's mission is to ensure that our students are prepared to effectively meet the challenges of the 21st century. The Foundation provides all friends of the Falls Church City Public Schools with a means to contribute a legacy of support for the system's educational excellence. Our commitment to educational excellence will guarantee that the unique identity and values of our community will be sustained.

*Falls Church Education Foundation is registered as a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization and a qualified public charity.*