



ON THE LEVEL

POINT OF INTEREST

Please update your name and school changes with FCFT. Also list a current private phone number and e-mail address. We never give out your contact information to anyone else.

You can make all changes by going to the FCFT Website. You can e-mail FCFT at www.fcft.org. Call the FCFT office at 703-451-6840.



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

In February's *On the Level* we mentioned TransFair. Since then we learned that this year there will be no Transfair. So, now you are probably thinking that you will not get to transfer to another school. You can still take the initiative on your own to pursue another position. You will have to call a desired school and ask for an interview. You have until the end of June to interview for another placement. After that both your current principal and the new principal would have to agree to the new placement. Many times a move will not be granted after that time.

Also if you anticipate taking a teaching position in another Virginia school district, be certain that you submit your resignation from FCPS to FCPS by June 15. This should prevent unnecessary complications.

You must sign your evaluation since your signature means that you have read it. If you think that you need to write a rebuttal, call FCFT for advice. We can help you. Any rebuttal must be sent by the end of June.

If things are going smoothly for you, then you may not be concerned with your school file. You can ask to read it, if you want.

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FCFT-703-451-6840

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

At this point the FCPS School Board and the Fairfax Board of Supervisors are in agreement about the FY 2019 Proposed Budget. The Fairfax County Executive, Bryan Hill, cautioned that this year's budget addresses all initiatives and priorities, but our future may be different. This is because residential taxes are Fairfax's main source of income. The County is working hard to attract more businesses to Fairfax to help with taxes. In the next few months many public meetings will be held with community members and many discussions will be held. The Fairfax County Budget is over four billion dollars. Supervisor Bulova has announced that the budget will cause a large tax increase for homeowners. Some people will see increases from \$300 to about \$500 this year. Most likely homeowners will be at the public meetings to voice their concerns. Superintendent Brabrand has said that Fairfax must increase compensation for teachers to compete in this area. Perhaps you should think about attending a public hearing to add a comment to the discussion.

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THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS COMING SOON

An enjoyable outing in the Washington area is a visit to the annual Cherry Blossom Festival. The National Cherry Festival 2018 dates are March 20-April 15. During March the National Park Service horticulturalists monitor the stages of bud development and provide updates on the blooms. The timing varies from year to year due to the weather conditions. Many free events are planned for the three-week festival. Two noteworthy events that occur on Saturdays are the following.



The Blossom Kite Festival-Saturday, March 31, 2018. It’s the 52nd anniversary of amazing kite flying on the National Mall.

The Festival Parade—Saturday, April 15, 2018. See lavish floats, balloons, marching bands, and family entertainment.

Many other events will take place also so look on-line for more information.

USE APPROVED MATERIALS!

This is a reminder to use approved instructional materials in your classrooms. Be careful not to download videos or material at home to use in the classroom unless you have the approval from your supervisor. You cannot show movies or videos outside of the School System’s regulations. Good teaching demands that you preview any audio-visual material that you plan to use in the classroom. In addition, to keep students actively engaged, you should provide follow-up material after the video is shown in class.



Times have changed and you may find that older materials from TV’s can be culturally insensitive or bigoted. Don’t bring trouble on yourself. Be careful.

AFT RESPONDS

We are all horrified at what happened in Florida. The entire country is grieving. We hear on TV and read on-line many suggestions about what we can do to prevent any more tragedies. One suggestion that seems to keep popping up is to arm classroom teachers. AFT President Randi Weingarten made comments recently about that idea. Randi said that she had a telephone town hall meeting the evening of February 21, 2018 with over 60,000 AFT teachers. Randi said, “Teachers don’t want to be armed; we want to teach. We don’t want to be, and would never have the expertise needed to be, sharp shooters; no amount of training can prepare an armed teacher to go up against an AR-15.” Now you know what the AFT thinks about arming teachers.

