

Seniors: See Page 4 for
Graduation Boat Party Info!

Yorktown Spirit

A Blue Ribbon School-Fostering Success in All Students

Winter-Spring 2018

From the Principal:

As we move into spring, our students' performance and focus can lag. Students have been in school for more than seven months by this point. They know the rules and recognize the hard work and consistent focus that are required for them to be successful in their classes. Their endurance flags and they can become stressed and snappish. Parents and staff, too, can fall into this trap. We forget that email can be a clumsy vehicle to express concern or disagreement. We sometimes hold students to expectations that they can't meet. We can become frustrated and inconsiderate with one another. With these realities in mind, I'd like to share with you an essay written by Dr. Catherine Battaglia, principal of City Honors School in Buffalo, New York. Her words are an apt reminder that everything we do impacts someone else, so we would do well to keep kindness and consideration uppermost in our minds.

Everything Counts

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

—Edward Everett Hale

"Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it."

—Mahatma Gandhi

For me, one of the most difficult things about education is not the long hours, the endless work or the preparation, but the enormous amount of human relations we do day-to-day. Let's face it, we're in the "people business," and forging relationships is the glue that holds us together. In an average day we have hundreds of contacts. We act, react, and interact regularly with a variety of players. It

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From the PTA President:

The Yorktown PTA has had a busy year so far. We have hosted information sessions for parents on college financing, teen substance use, student stress and anxiety, and healthy teen relationships. These well-attended forums featured expert speakers and highlighted the resources available in Arlington to families seeking more information and support on these issues.

In addition, the PTA has held two rounds of teacher grant applications this year and is on track to award \$30,000 in funds for educational needs to support Yorktown students and teachers. These funds have been used to purchase science and math equipment, support YHS music and arts programs, and provide needed books and other supplies for the HILT program. We were thrilled that the PTA grant to fund a subscription to *The New York Times* for all Yorktown students and teachers ended up being returned to us when the newspaper agreed to provide this service, free of charge, to all APS students.

The PTA is also trying something new to help Yorktown parents forge connections and have more opportunities to communicate with each other, as well as to develop fun activities for students that are supervised and safe. Our new Social Committee will host a parent reception this spring and will plan a series of parent coffees for each class. The PTA is also working with a student committee to hold a spring dance at the school to cap the spring Spirit Week and strengthen a sense of pride and belonging among Yorktown students. Other ideas, such as an Outdoor Movie Night, are also in the works. Volunteers are needed. If interested, please contact me at president@yhspta.org.

We are also blazing a new trail this year with the Yorktown Graduation Boat Party, and I ask all senior families to please support this event. After 20 years, the Boat Party Committee has moved this

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can be exhausting.

Perhaps the most precarious feature is that we can never be certain what our actions may yield in the long run. Certainly, the overt things we do create immediate responses. For example, I find out pretty quickly how students or staff feel about a new policy or a change in schedule. You don't have to be a wizard to notice that kind of "buzz." But the subtle things are more difficult to discern, and that's what makes our jobs so darn tough. Relationships can be so fragile. They can sometimes be singed by a whimsical comment made in jest, a raised eyebrow, or downward glance. Sometimes, without even knowing, a deep sigh or furrowed brow—inadvertently and unconsciously executed—communicates volumes. Even long-standing relationships can tarnish quickly without our noticing.

From my side, I think about the idea that I may never realize the result of counsel given to a colleague or parent or the long-range effect of my words on a student in need of assurance. I don't really know if saying "hello" and calling someone by name makes anyone's day, or if not doing so hurts someone's feelings in a way that will be remembered. When I stoop to pick up trash in the hallways, send a birthday greeting, or open a door for the person behind me, does it really matter? Does it really count? Does anyone notice?

Well, I think it all matters. Everything I do matters. The good, the bad, and the ugly. Everything I do or neglect to do . . . it all impacts somewhere on someone or something. I read once that the beating of a butterfly's wings will alter the weather miles and miles away. This seemingly diminutive action creates a subtle shift, no more, no less than a smile.

I think if I could have only two rules in life, two principles to guide me each and every day, they would be as follows: Everyone counts, and Everything counts. Maybe it is that easy. If we live our lives and educate our children to understand that everything we do has an effect . . . sometimes small and sometimes grand . . . it just might create a subtle shift and change the climate of our homes and our schools. It certainly can't hurt. If one butterfly's wings can alter the winds, just imagine what could happen when a whole community of butterflies joins in. It has the potential to turn the insignificant into the sublime.

Bridget Loft
Principal
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(PTA President, continued from page 1)

celebration to a new boat—The Spirit of Washington—which is a more appealing venue and offers such amenities as two dance floors with djs, rooftop games, and its own catering service. This promises to be a lot of fun for Yorktown graduates as well as a way to keep them safe on graduation night. Volunteers are needed. Please contact boatparty@yhspta.org.

Before the school year ends, the PTA will hold an election for next year's officers and will begin the process to fill committee chair positions for the 2018-19 school year. Please let me know if you would be interested in serving as a PTA officer or committee chair. Thank you to all the Yorktown families who volunteer for various events and who donate the funds that make the PTA's work possible!

Kathy Mimberg
Yorktown PTA President
President@yhspta.org
www.YHSPTA.org

****School Safety Reporting****

To help promote school safety, Yorktown administrators implemented a new feature on the Yorktown website (<https://yhs.apsva.us/>). On the left side of the page, you will notice a new link titled "Student Safety Reporting". Using this link, anyone in the community—parents, neighbors, and students—can report on unsafe situations in which the school is able to offer help. Any information reported there will be kept confidential and only shared with necessary school or public safety personnel in order to intervene with regard to substance use, bullying, or any other situations in which students may need our help. If you have any questions, please contact Scott McKeown, Assistant Principal, at 703 228-2618.

New PTA Social Committee Sponsoring Events for Students and Parents

***Spring Dance:** The new PTA Social Committee is working with the YHS Student Government Association on fun activities that can bring students together and strengthen school pride. The first activity will be a spring dance in the Yorktown atrium/cafeteria on Saturday, April 28, following Spring Spirit Week. Parents interested in helping should contact Amy Westhoff at amywesthoff@hotmail.com.

***Parent Reception:** The PTA Social Committee has also thought about how to help parents forge more connections. The first activity will be a parent reception in the atrium/cafeteria this spring. We will soon confirm a date and could use some help with planning. We hope to offer class-specific parent coffees in the future. Anyone who can help with this should contact at ingamiddleton@gmail.com.

PTA Grocery Program Has Raised Over \$2,000!

The YHS PTA would like to thank the Yorktown families who registered their grocery store cards to benefit our school -- 173 families at Harris Teeter and 145 families at Giant!

To date, the program has raised \$1,273 from Harris Teeter and \$788 from Giant.

If you shop for groceries in Arlington or beyond, it is not too late to register your Harris Teeter and Giant savings cards. It's easy — just stop by the customer service desk at the store or go online to register your cards:

Harris Teeter Together in Education www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/tie.aspx
YHS Code 4542

GIANT A+ School Rewards
<http://giantfood.com/school-rewards/>
YHS code 02223

That's all there is to it and the school earns money! Your support helps the PTA fund valuable school and student programs. So make sure you are signed up!

Class of 2018 Graduation Night Boat Party June 14

It's time to sign up for the Senior Boat Party held on Graduation Night - June 14, 2018! The Senior Boat Party is a special Graduation Night event that serves two important purposes: it gives YHS Seniors a super high school send-off and a last big hurrah with all their classmates, and it gives parents peace of mind knowing that our Seniors are spending graduation night (from 10:00 PM to 3:00 AM) in a safe, chaperoned, alcohol-free environment.

The Class of 2018 will continue the longstanding graduation night tradition aboard the recently renovated Spirit of Washington (see below), departing from the newly opened District Wharf Pier 4. The party is an exciting evening full of fun that will include two DJs, dancing, casino games, photo booth, raffles, and refreshments galore. The rooftop deck features an outdoor foosball table and other games.

Bus transportation will be provided to and from the Wharf for all students (students must ride the bus for boat access). Check-in starts at 10:00 PM at Yorktown. Buses will depart at 11:00 PM and will return around 3:30 AM.

Tickets are \$60 and are available for purchase at www.yhspta.org/boat-party. Scholarships are available for any student to whom this would present a hardship (please see your guidance counselor for details). For more information, contact the Boat Party Committee at boatparty@yhspta.org.



Yorktown Art Show: Volunteers Needed

The Yorktown Spring Art Show will be on display between 8:00 am and 3:15 pm each day from Tuesday, May 29 through the end of Friday, June 1. The Art Department needs parent volunteers to help safeguard the work during those hours for each of those days. There will also, be an opening reception with light refreshments on the evening of Wednesday, May 30 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and all are invited join. Come see some great art and help support the Art Department by volunteering. Sign up here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4da5a823a02-artshow>

Plan Ahead: Fall 2018 High School Sports to Begin As Early As July 30

To assist in summer planning, please keep in mind fall sports tryouts and practices will begin as early as July 30. This date is set by the Virginia High School League. More information will be posted on the www.yorktownsports.org website under general announcements as it becomes available. It is recommended that you also sign up for "email alerts" for those sports for which you are interested in receiving information.

Based on prior year schedules, early information is listed below; however, it is subject to change. Please keep in mind students must be available for both tryouts and then daily practices during the month of August. Most teams have scrimmages and games in August before school starts. Please plan vacations accordingly as availability is a major factor in team composition.

Golf - tryouts will begin July 30

Football - JV and V - likely to start no earlier than August 6

Football - Freshmen - likely to start August 8

Volleyball - likely to start August 6 for Freshmen and JV with Varsity tryouts possibly the end of the preceding week (no earlier than August 1)

Field Hockey - likely to hold optional skills sessions August 1-3 with tryouts beginning on August 6

Cheer - Likely to start the week of August 6, but possibly August 1, especially for Varsity

Cross Country - likely will not begin before August 13

What's Happening at Yorktown?

The Yorktown website is a great place to start: <https://yhs.apsva.us/>. Find the school events calendar, teachers' mail addresses, details about programs and activities, and much more.

The new and improved YHS PTA website (www.yhspta.org) is a great resource for information about all the great ways the PTA is supporting the YHS community. The site contains timely messages from the PTA president, the weekly email and online issues of the Yorktown Spirit newsletter, as well as information on how to volunteer for or donate to PTA programs. The site also includes relevant school and county calendars, PTA contacts, budget, and meeting agendas/minutes. You can even order your YHS Spirit Wear on the website.

For Yorktown athletics, visit <http://www.yorktownsports.org/>.

The Yorktown Sentry is the student-run newspaper: <http://yorktownsentry.com/>.

"The Yorktown Dailies" is a broadcast program that brings YHS news and short features to classrooms each morning: <https://vimeo.com/yorktownconnections>.

Choose from several Yorktown Twitter handles or follow them all for the latest updates and pictures! These include: @YorktownHS, @Principal_YHS, @yhsports, @YorktownSentry and @yorktownbands.

Join the PTA – There's Still Time!

Calling all Yorktown parents! Have you joined the YHS PTA for 2016-2017 and donated to the Phantom Phling, the PTA's annual fundraiser? It's not too late! To join, go to the YHS PTA web site at <http://www.yhspta.org/> and click on the membership form. The form can be filled out online with a credit card or printed and returned to the PTA Box at Yorktown along with a check.

The PTA helps fund valuable programs and events that benefit the entire school community. If you have questions, contact Lindsay Levy, YHS PTA Membership Chair, at [703-241-7959](tel:703-241-7959).

Yearbooks On Sale

Books can be purchased at jostens.com - go to "Yearbooks", "Buy Your Yearbook" and search for Yorktown High School (be sure to select the Yorktown in Arlington, VA as there are other schools with the same name!). Yearbooks go fast, so buy yours now to ensure you get one! If your student is a senior, senior ads are a great way to congratulate them for graduating! Support Yorktown's yearbook by buying a senior ad located in the back of the book. In past years, Yorktown sports teams have also purchased ads to congratulate their seniors. Senior and team ad prices are as follows: Full page - \$300, ½ page - \$175, ¼ page - \$100, ⅛ page - \$60 To buy an ad or for more information, please email yorktownyearbook@yahoo.com

Stock Up on Spirit Wear! Order Online Now!

T-shirts (\$10) and crew style sweatshirts (\$20) are now available for online purchase. Both items are navy blue with "Yorktown" printed across the front in Patriot Blue in S, M, L and XL. New online ordering is available at www.yhspta.org. Questions? Email Spirit Wear Chair Diane Small at wee@smallfam.com.

