

The Student Leader

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A Little Thanks Goes a Long Way

As we enter November, we naturally are thinking about Thanksgiving. I know that most of you love this time of year. Whether you love Thanksgiving for the amazing food, football, or an extended weekend, it is a much needed time to reflect on all that we have and how we can give to others.

As a student leader, and later as an adviser, I was always ready to go. I wanted to not only meet the expectations that others had for me, I wanted to exceed them. I know that many of you are the same way. I was never looking for an extra pat on the back. However, through my experiences I realized the huge impact that the words "Thank You" can have on a person and an organization.

People that feel appreciated want to do more. It is human nature to want to work harder for those that value what you have done for them. I once worked for a principal that truly taught me how important this can be in building relationships. After an event, not only did my principal have a thank you note for me, she had one for the entire SCA. It let us know how much she valued what we were doing for the school. Guess what? You've got it...it made us want to work harder.

So during this season of Thanksgiving, make sure that you tell those that inspire you, work hard with you, or believe in you. "thank you." Thank an administrator for backing an idea, thank a teacher for attending an event, thank your peers for supporting an SCA project, thank your advisers for all of the time that they take away from their personal life to help you develop into a successful student leader.

I feel very blessed to be able to be a part of VSCA with each of you.

THANK YOU!!!

Andrea Vail

"Hanging Out" with the Secretary of Education

By: Ashley Leidy, President, Landstown High School

On Thursday, October 30, 2014 five Landstown High School and two Hickory High School students participated in a Google Hangout with Virginia Secretary of Education, Ann Holten. Landstown SCA President and appointed VSCA committee member, Ashley Leidy, helped to guide the discussions on SOL reform for student success. Students discussed options to include real life application and critical thinking on the SOL's. In closing, Landstown was one of six schools chosen to participate in the Google Hangout. Current VSCA President, Emma Buchanan, participated with Virginia Middle School in Bristol.



Healthy Hearts at Orange County High School

By: Mrs. Laurie Jamerson, Adviser, Orange County High School

Each Fall, the Orange County Chapter of the American Heart Association hosts the Heart Walk. The Orange County High School SCA helps with the setup, registration, walking-fundraising and clean up. The walk begins at the high school, continues through the neighborhood and ends at the high school. Over \$6,000 dollars was raised this year!



Benton Middle Hosts Leadership Workshop

By: Mr. Mark Shiring, Adviser, Benton Middle School

The Benton Middle School SCA hosted a "Leadership Workshop" for nine other middle schools in Prince William County on Tuesday, October 28. The purpose of the workshop was to share ideas, improve leadership skills, learn about the benefits of joining VSCA, and to get motivated for the current school year. The workshop featured icebreakers, team-building activities, motivational videos, and several small group breakout sessions. The various breakout sessions covered topics such as fundraising ideas, running campaigns & elections, bullying, improving school spirit, community service, and improving SCA meetings. The breakout sessions were a huge success in giving students from the various schools the opportunity to share ideas and discuss what does and doesn't work from past experience.

The keynote speaker was Ms. Atria Godfrey, host of "Good Morning Washington" and the WJLA7 "News at Noon." Ms. Godfrey spoke to the students about her own career, including how she had been in SCA during her school years. She also gave some pertinent advice to the students about what it takes to be successful in their future. The WJLA7 "News at Noon" ran a short feature about the workshop, as well. Another presenter was the 2013 VSCA "Advisor of the Year," Mr. Jeff Schutte. He spoke about the benefits of joining the VSCA and also led a small group session for the advisors attending. Mr. Schutte states "The Leadership Team at Benton MS did an outstanding job hosting Prince William County's first-ever middle school SCA workshop. The ten schools in attendance were enthusiastic, energetic, full of questions, and full of a desire to keep making their schools amazing places to learn and grow. It was an honor to spend the day with such positive young teens interested in giving everything they have to their school communities."

The Benton SCA leadership team did a phenomenal job of running the entire workshop and facilitating all of the breakout sessions. The Benton leadership team includes: Megan Smith, Joshua Jurack, Carlos Noel, Katelyn Marzo, Avery Ouellette, Kylie Cropp, Julianne Crosbie, Adam Webb, and Ethan Black. The Benton SCA advisors are Mark Shiring and Cadie Culp. The middle schools attending were: Reagan Middle, Beville Middle, Saunders Middle, Gainesville Middle, Potomac Middle, Bull Run Middle, Stonewall Middle, Godwin Middle, and Parkside Middle. Hopefully, another middle school will host the leadership workshop next year, so that this can become an annual event.

Adviser Spotlight

Mr. Jeff Marsh, Park View High School

This month we are highlighting the SCA Adviser at Park View High School, Mr. Jeff Marsh. He has been the SCA adviser for the past 15 years. During this time, Mr. Marsh has been instrumental in leadership development not only within his school, but through VSCA. He currently serves as the sponsor for the VSCA Vice-President School. We asked Mr. Marsh a few questions to give us some insight on what makes him such a successful SCA adviser.

VSCA: What is your favorite part about being an SCA Adviser?

Mr. Marsh: I really enjoy being around the student leadership in the school! There are so many students who do a lot to bring great events and memories to the entire student body, and I like to be a part of this. Over the past 15 years as an SCA Advisor, I can look back and see the traditions we have begun at Park View HS.

VSCA: What is the most memorable event that you have been a part of in this role?

Mr. Marsh: So many memorable events! I would have to say that my four trips to the NASC National Conference were truly inspiring. I had the pleasure of meeting Advisors from around the Nation and world. There are fabulous guest speakers and service events. Anyone who can go to Nationals this coming Summer should absolutely begin saving money and get excited!

VSCA: What advice would you give to brand-new advisers?

Mr. Marsh: My biggest advice for a first-year advisor is to write everything down!! You will thank yourself the next year when you have notes to help you improve upon the events you do. Delegate as much as you can to your student officers and do not put boundaries on what they can/cannot do. The best traditions can come from some (seemingly) silly ideas!

VSCA: Why do you think VSCA is important?

Mr. Marsh: VSCA is important because we help unite and improve the student leadership for the entire Commonwealth of Virginia. VSCA is a way to communicate to all schools the fantastic state-level projects you can be doing at your school. VSCA provides opportunities for student and advisor leadership training and a way to network with schools from around your region and the Commonwealth.

Do you want to highlight an adviser in your life?
E-mail Mrs. Vail at avail@scaleader.org.

Do you have a question for
Mr. Marsh?

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