STUDENT LEADER

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What's Inside

Virginia Schools Named as NASC Gold Councils of Excellence 2

VSCA Awards 24 Schools for Achievement..... 2

VSCA Award Winners..... 3

Advisory Council Applications Available 3

Students Helping Students in Need..... 4

Grassfield High Recognizes Students Monthly 4

Meet the Candidates 4

What's Ahead

June 1: Postmark deadline for Advisory Council applications

June 25-27: NASC Conference at Wayzata High School in Plymouth, MN

Inspiring Speakers Highlight VSCA State Convention in Virginia Beach

The 92nd VSCA State Student Leadership Convention was held March 16–18, 2018, at The Founders Inn in Virginia Beach. The three-day event was filled with inspirational speeches. Acting State Superintendent Dr. Steve Constantino kicked-off the Opening General Session on Friday. That evening, Convention lead presenter Kyle Willkom continued with a keynote address filled with ukulele, singing, and more. Kenneth Kidd, the 2012–2013 VSCA Secretary School student representative and current Christopher Newport University student body president, closed out the Convention on Sunday.

Acting State Superintendent Dr. Steve Constantino (center) kicked-off the Opening General Session of the VSCA State Convention on Friday.

The Convention included multiple Learning Lab sessions, a public speaking contest, an idea swap shop, a resolutions debate session, the awards banquet, state regional meetings, a dance party, and the statewide election of the 2018–2019 VSCA officer schools. Learning Labs covered a wide variety of topics including such things as bringing unity to your community, building school pride, electronic communications, parliamentary procedure, and planning a spirit week around a theme.

In addition, representatives from the Virginia Board of Education joined the Convention for their annual open forum with student leaders from across the Commonwealth. Topics discussed included equality in courses offered in schools throughout Virginia, the Five Cs (critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration,

continued on page 3

Teacher Appreciation Week Ideas

By Jeannette Barahona, Massaponax HS, Region 3

The first full week of May has always been recognized as teacher appreciation week, with that Tuesday designated as National Teacher Day. Every year, the SCA at Massaponax High School spends weeks preparing a gift for each educator in our building. We invite all clubs in our school to assist in the making of these gifts. From the sanding of wood, to the last paint drop, these gifts are handmade by our students.

In the three years I've had the privilege of being a member of our SCA, every project was loved by the teachers. The first was a pen/pencil holder with a pack of crayons hot glued around it, as well as a cloth tape measure wound over the crayons. We established an assembly line of tape measure cutters, crayon hot gluers, and tape measure gluers.

The second project started with the carving of 270, 12" by 6" wooden pencils. Our sponsor's father was kind enough to carve them all out for us. During our SCA lunch period we all sanded the pencils so that they would be ready to

continued on page 3

NASC Names 16 Virginia Councils as Gold National Councils of Excellence for 2018

Sixteen Virginia schools have been named to receive the highly-esteemed 2018 Gold National Council of Excellence Award by the National Association of Student Councils (NASC).

"Receiving an NASC National Council of Excellence Award indicates a dedication on the part of the local school to providing a strong, well-rounded student council program," says Anne Postlewaite, student programs director for the National Association of Secondary School Principals. "National StuCo applauds the work of the National Councils of Excellence and challenges them to continue their leadership and service to their schools and communities."

To meet the requirements for the National Council of Excellence Award, a student council must prove that it meets a variety of criteria. In addition to such basic requirements as a written constitution, regular meetings, a democratic election process, and membership in NASC, councils demonstrate such things as leadership training for council members, teacher/staff appreciation activities, student recognition programs, school and community service projects, spirit activities, goal setting, financial planning, and active participation in state and national student council associations. The award recognizes the work of each council during a calendar year. Awards are given at both the high school and middle school levels.

Congratulations to the following student councils for continuing to demonstrate exemplary efforts to build student leaders and to improve their schools and communities through the member's service, leadership, and activities:

First Colonial High School
Floyd E. Kellam High School
Frank W. Cox High School
Grassfield High School
Green Run High School
Kempsville High School
Landstown High School
Mclean High School
Ocean Lakes High School
Osbourn High School
Princess Anne High School
Salem High School
South Lakes High School
Tallwood High School
Woodbridge Senior High School
Woodgrove High School

For more information on the process used to have your council designated as a Council of Excellence, go to *www.nasc.us/national-councils-of-excellence* for a listing of criteria and the application, which will be due February 15, 2019.

Share Your Successful Ideas Does your council do a great fundraiser? Do you sponsor a project that is really successful? Are you effective at using social media to get the word out?

Write up a short description and send it with photos to *Avail@scaleader.org* and you could find yourself featured in an upcoming issue of *Student Leader!*

VSCA Awards 24 Schools for Achievement

Each year, VSCA honors member schools that promote leadership and community service through their school's Student Council activities by awarding an Achievement Award. This year, 24 schools were recognized for their achievements.

To be recognized, schools must apply and submit documentation of completing a variety of activities throughout the school year. The required projects must be assembled in a portfolio and reviewed by the school principal to be considered for an award. All member schools that complete the criteria for this award receive the award.

Congratulations to the 2018 recipients for this outstanding achievement:

Battlefield HS
Benton MS
Buckingham County HS
Buffalo Gap HS
C.D. Hylton HS
Courtland HS
Franklin County HS
Freedom HS
Grassfield HS
Hayfield Elementary
Hickory HS
Hugo A Owens MS
Liberty HS
Massaponax HS
Orange County HS
Osbourn HS
Oscar Smith MS
Park View HS
Patrick Henry HS
Prince George HS
South Lakes HS
Western Branch MS
Woodbridge HS
Woodgrove HS

2018 VSCA Award Winners

A highlight of the VSCA Convention is the announcement of the annual award winners. Congratulations to the following awardees for 2018:

VSCA Administrator of the Year

Douglas Fulton, principal, Freedom High School, Loudoun School Division, and President-Elect of the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals

VSCA Advisor of the Year

Mark Shiring, Language Arts Teacher, Benton Middle School, Prince William School Division.

Outstanding Student Council Project

South Lakes High School, Fairfax County School Division; Advisor: Lyn Fiscus

Advisory Council Applications Available Online

The VSCA advisory council meets throughout the school year to help plan the annual convention and to offer ideas and support to the officer schools. Students who make up the advisory council are appointed to their positions based on a written application.

The three Advisory Council meetings for 2018–2019 will take place on the following dates:

- September 22 at Prince George High School
- November 17 at Orange County High School
- January 26 at Prince George High School

Members of the advisory council are expected to attend a minimum of two of the three meetings, and must pay their own expenses to participate. Members also are expected to write at least one article for the *Student Leader* newsletter.

Interested students can find a fillable application available online at *http://bit.ly/2HQQElB* Applications are due to the VSCA State Office by June 1.

Teacher Appreciation (cont'd from p 1)

go for all the other clubs that would be helping. Again, we set up an assembly line with each section of pencil painting. The gifts were personalized with each teacher's name on it.

The third project began with the helpful suggestion of one of our sponsors. We cut out colored paper and placed it in frames, then attached Scrabble tiles and dry erase markers, so that the teachers could have a place on their desks to write a to-do list.

We have done goodie bags and candy bars with puns but the overwhelming thanks from our teachers the past few years shows us that our time was well spent making them these gifts.

2018 Convention Inspires Attendees (cont'd from p 1)

communication, and citizenship) compared to memorization and traditional testing assessments, and whether mastery learning should be emphasized over standardized testing.

During the Convention, interested students could take part in a public speaking contest. Winners were announced at the banquet on Saturday evening. For the high school division, the winner was Kirt Boyd, Battlefield High School, Prince William School Division; Advisor: Joe Schelzo, Principal: Ryan Ferrera. For the middle school division, the winner was Abdullah Usufzai, Ronald Wilson Reagan Middle School, Prince William School Division; Advisors: Montrece Bell and Charlene Murphy, Principal: Alfie Turner.

The dedication and support of SCA advisors and school principals for students to attend the VSCA Annual State Convention is greatly appreciated. Principals acknowledged in this summary are members of VASSP.

For an archived copy of the 2018 VSCA convention program, visit *http://bit.ly/2HUChg4*. For an entertaining recap of the convention, please watch the highlights video at *http://bit.ly/2HmtbrJ*, which was created by Gabbi Troia, the 2017–2018 VSCA Secretary School student representative from Woodbridge High School, Prince William School Division.

Students Helping Students in Need

By Daniella Saforo, VSCA Secretary

Students Helping Students was an idea formed two years ago by Battlefield High School students Andrew Boyd and Kirt Boyd. They wanted to help beyond their local community by providing materials necessary to schools that lack proper educational facilities and offering their peers across the world a chance to succeed.

During the 2016–2017 school year, Battlefield reached out to other schools in the state to raise money for the Native American Heritage Association. Inspired to break the vicious cycle of poverty through education, Kirt Boyd dedicated this year's cause to a school in Puerto Rico, Teodoro Aguilar Mora, one of many affected by Hurricane Maria. After extending a fundraising invitation to Prince William County High Schools, Osbourn Park High School, Hylton High School, Patriot High School, and many others decided to assist Teodoro Aguilar Mora.

Hurricane Maria caused devastation at Teodoro Aguilar Mora school in Puerto Rico.

Osbourn Park High School held a field day on April 14 to raise money. Likewise, C.D. Hylton High School conducted a spring fundraiser collection through classrooms during the week of March 20–23. Battlefield High School plans on having a Zumba night on May 3 from 7:00–8:00 pm as well as Penny Wars during the week. On May 5 there also will be a Powderpuff and Spring Carnival to raise money for Teodoro Aguilar Mora.

"This is a unique phase of all of our lives. This is a time where we can easily reach out to others in our generation to help those around the world," said Kirt Boyd. "As students and as humans we have an obligation to remember and assist our peers who are less fortunate than us. This Students Helping Students Initiative is to encourage a fellowship and a unifying atmosphere among our generation."

Grassfield High Recognizes Students Monthly

Grassfield High School SCA has been brainstorming new ways to recognize students at our school. We came up with the idea of recognizing all student birthdays. To do that, we put up a Birthday Wall on the corkboard in our cafeteria on which we place a themed symbol for each student who has a birthday that month. Each month we change the layout according to the season.

Our goal was to make the students feel more included and accepted at the school. We hope to incorporate new ideas similar to the Birthday Wall next year to encourage the recognition of all students at Grassfield.

Meet the Candidates

By Lyn Fiscus, South Lakes

For various reasons, many schools no longer conduct election assemblies with formal speeches by the candidates as part of their election procedure. If your school has moved away from having election assemblies, consider one of the following alternate methods of allowing voters to become familiar with the candidates:

- **Have a candidate open forum or debate** that all candidates attend and interested voters come to hear them talk and answer questions.
- **Have candidates visit classrooms** to give their speech and answer questions. Teachers could sign up to have the candidates visit their classes.
- **Videotape each of the candidates giving a short speech** and answering questions by an panel of students. Encourage homeroom teachers or social studies teachers to show the video to their classes.
- **Create a page on the school's website** that features all candidates. Include a photo of each candidate along with a statement by each of them about why they are running, what they hope to accomplish if elected, and what qualifications they bring to the office.