



## from the Principal's Desk

The following are highlights from the **Parent Satisfaction Survey** Conducted last year:

Top 5 Highest Rated Questions	% Favorable Responses
• The School encourages students to be responsible.	99%
• I know how to get school information when I need it.	99%
• The school's staff is committed to my child's education.	99%
• Overall, school information is communicated effectively.	99%
• I feel welcome at my child's school.	99%

Top 5 Lowest Rated Questions	% Unfavorable Responses
• I regularly check school information on-line.	40%
• The school helps provide information about college.	27%
• The school offers opportunities for my child to explore areas of interest outside the core content areas.	14%
• My child's school does an excellent job dealing with student Bullying.	12%

The following is additional information concerning Ward's status as a **School Accredited with Warning**:

State Accreditation is based on many factors. Our school did not receive full accreditation because we did not reach the benchmark set by the State in Reading and Math. Our pass rate is determined by averaging the scores of all students in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade on the SOL Test.

2014 Percent Passing	Benchmark (% of students needing to pass to be fully accredited in 2015)
Reading: 60%	75%
Math: 64%	70%

The following steps have been taken to improve teaching and learning during the 2014-2015 school year:

- New Teachers have been hired
- An increase in funding for additional teachers to work with students has been allocated.
- We have implemented a program called Interactive Achievement which provides teachers and students access to SOL formatted questions. By administering quick checks using Interactive Achievement, we can better assess the progress students are making.
- Staff Development and Training will be provided to teachers

To reach our goal of being Fully Accredited, we need our students to give their best effort every day and put in the extra work needed at home. We are... **Ward Strong!**

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## from the PTA President

Dear Ward Families,

On behalf of the Ward Elementary PTA, I would like to once again welcome to another wonderful school year! We hope you've enjoyed a great start to the new school year and have prepared yourselves with a renewed energy and enthusiasm for the year ahead.

We are proud to have an active PTA with parent volunteers, teachers, administrators, and staff all contributing to the successful education of our children. We look forward to working together to organize and implement activities that support the Ward Strong! mission.

Do you want to make a difference in our school and community? Do you wish you could have more involvement and influence over what happens at Ward? Being a member of the Ward PTA can help you achieve that! We all know children learn and achieve more when parents, school staff, students and the community partner in success.

The Ward PTA's efforts begin with the launch of our Annual Ward PTA Membership Drive. We are evolving the way PTA raises funds to by ensuring the memberships and fundraising dollars you contribute goes directly to student support and academic programs. The PTO is asking each family to participate in this year's fall fundraiser, which will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Your fundraising and memberships supports enrichment programs such as the Reflections Program, staff and technology support, assemblies, student recognition, field trips, Career Day, Grandparents Day, classroom and materials, 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony, and much more! When you become a member, your support will bring us closer to accomplishing these goals. Parents, Grandparents, students or any adult 18 years of age or over may become a member.

The Ward PTA invites you to join us in making a difference in the education and quality of life for all our children. We invite you to join us every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month (or as noted on the school calendar) for our monthly General PTA meetings. Here is where we will share the latest news and information regarding any new PTA or county-wide school legislations, PTA local, district & state news as well as highlight our students in their grade level artistic showcases. I look forward to working with all of our Ward parents and encourage you to contact us with your questions and ideas!

Sincerely,  
Angela Clark Greene  
Wardptapres@gmail.com



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."  
~ Dr. Seuss, *I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!*

## MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

**Thank you so much to everyone that has already joined the Ward PTA.**

As of this writing, we are 182 members and growing! Our October drawing will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup> and the lucky winner will receive a goodie bag of treats and a \$20.00 gift certificate to The Pumpkin Patch/Veggie Stand on Gay Avenue off of Laburnum.

Our winner will be announced along with the grand prize winner of our September gift basket in the November newsletter (due to our October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline and the newsletter print date). I look forward to seeing everyone at the membership table at our October PTA meeting and entering even more people in our monthly drawings!

Thank you for your support!

Charlotte Cecil  
VP of Membership



Music is bubbling over at Ward in General Music and in the classrooms.

Students in General Music are singing, reading, moving, creating choreography, listening for form in music, exploring dynamics, clapping rhythmic patterns, identifying music symbols, and working together to make music.

Our Third Grade classes are busy preparing for "Ready to Learn", which will be presented on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> during the day and evening. Fifth Grade Chorus is off to an amazing start with all students coming together to make a joyful sound. Students in Fifth Grade Chorus are preparing to perform in our community during the month of December.

Take time and ask you son/daughter what did he/she learn in General Music each week. We are so.... oh excited about the Music Connection here at Ward.

Musically Yours,

Mrs. Manson  
Music Educator

# Meet Your School Counselor

**Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year!**  
**I am Mrs. Rice, Ward Elementary School's Counselor.**

## What does a school counselor do?

I promote the academic, personal/social, and career growth of all students. My focus is to create the most efficient learning environment and teach students 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills: problem-solving, communication, and decision making.

## Services Offered:

Individual Counseling- Individual counseling provides students with the opportunity to express their feelings and concerns in a confidential setting.

Small Group Counseling- Group counseling allows students to come together to work through an issue that is preventing them from doing their best at school. They have the opportunity to interact and connect with peers, practice new skills, and provide and receive feedback. Group topics may include: friendship, anger management, self-esteem, anxiety, changing families/divorce, and study skills. If your student needs assistance with any of these things please contact me so I can help them join group.

Classroom Guidance- I will visit each classroom about seven times throughout the year to conduct whole class lessons. The goal of classroom lessons is to address developmental issues common to all students.

## Additional Services:

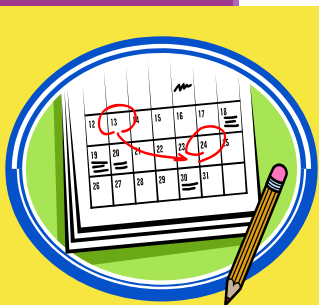
Consultation- I am available to meet with parents and teachers to discuss issues that might be interfering with student academic, emotional, or social success.

School Test Coordinator- I am responsible for the administration of annual state and county mandated assessments.

**I am looking forward to helping students enjoy a successful school year!**

**Contact Information: 795-7030 or**  
[larice@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:larice@henrico.k12.va.us)

**You can also visit my website at:**  
<http://blogs.henrico.k12.va.us/layates/>



## IMPORTANT DATES:

**10/13**  
 STUDENT HOLIDAY  
 Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night  
 @ 4 -7 pm

**10/16**  
 PTA Meeting @ 6:30 PM  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Performs @ 7 PM

## Family Advocate

Hello everyone, what a great school year happening here at Ward!

At the last SFEC parent meeting we voted in our SFEC officers, Title One HFPAC representatives and Pre-K sub-committee representatives. We also voted on one of our Ward Dads to be the Ward Chairperson for us this school year, since we have had several other dads to come forward to share that they would like to participate with the Fatherhood program. WOW! Really exciting with the moms, grandparents and male role models stepping up and bringing their skills to Ward.

- October 14, 2014 will be our first Ward Man Up planning meeting at 6:30pm with light refreshments. The dads will do planning for the school year on "How Can We Get More Males Involved with the Fatherhood program. Please come Dads and male role models! Do not miss the opportunity to help choose a Name for Your Ward Man Up Group and help design a T-Shirt
- October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 starting at 5:45 with light supper, we will have our "Famous" Ward Family Fun & Fitness Night! We will have many community partners here to set up different stations for lots of family fun! Thank You to our gym teacher for all her hard work in the planning of this event! Thanks, Mrs. Gouldin!

Please remember to send in your can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House to help support the families that stay there, with children who are going through treatments. As of now, Ward and Baker are really close in the number of pounds collected. Get excited for Ward and send those tabs to help the families. Later in the year Ward and Baker will add up the amount of pounds collected to see who has the most turned in! For the school with the less pounds, that principal will visit the winning school for a surprise! Wow! Yeah! Each month we will congratulate a class between Pre-k-2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> with the most pounds.

Also remember if you have some time to volunteer during the day, PLEASE call Ms. Vaughan to set up time and dates! We can use everyone's skills for their favorite place to volunteer. Stay Safe and call if I can be of assistance for family resources.

Many Hugs to all!

Ellen Vaughan  
Ward Family Advocate



Tell me and I forget,  
teach me and I may remember,  
involve me and I learn."  
~ Benjamin Franklin

## Box Tops for Education

**Box Tops are an easy way to raise money for our schools!**

Our school participates in the Box Tops for Education Program. This program is an easy way for our school to raise money. Simply cut the box top logo off of participating products and send them in to school.

We also have a box in the office.



# What's GOING ON in the Library?

## BOOK FAIR COMING SOON!

Fall is here and the **Fall Book Fair** is just around the corner! Mark your calendars; our book fair will run November 11-14. If you'd like to get more involved and to volunteer with the book fair, just contact the librarian, Andrea Velle [acvelle@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:acvelle@henrico.k12.va.us), or the library assistant, Linda Atkinson [lwatkinson@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:lwatkinson@henrico.k12.va.us).

**Good reading skills** help children succeed in school and later in their careers. Kids who read well are also more likely to graduate from high school and college than those who don't – and tend to have greater confidence throughout their lives.

Want to help your child become a better reader?

- **Read aloud with your child.** Snuggle up with a good book as often as possible, even if it's only 10 minutes a day. While reading to your child, take time to answer questions. Then, ask a few of your own, such as "What part did you like best?"
- **Letter of the day.** Find out what letter your child is working on in school, and use it at home. For example, if it's "m", ask her to help you think of words that begin with "m". Then, write the words on a piece of paper and put it on the refrigerator.
- **Words here and there.** Throughout the day, point out words that your youngster knows. Signs are good examples – a stop sign along the road, an exit sign over a doorway, restaurant signs.

### General Library Information

- Students are allowed to loan a book for one week at a time
- Books may be renewed one week at a time
- Students will receive notices for lost, damaged, or overdue books
- There are fines for overdue books.

- If a book is lost or damaged beyond repair, the following replacement costs will be billed to the student's account – Hardcover book, \$16; Paperback book, \$5
- Once a student receives a bill, he may not check out any more books until the book is returned in good condition or is paid for

No one likes to get a bill for a book, so please help your child show proper book care by

- Helping them find a safe place at home to keep their books
- Reminding them to have clean hands when looking at their books
- Turn the pages carefully
- Avoiding having food or drinks while reading
- Encouraging them to return their books on time

Ward's Library is GREAT! Our goal is to empower students and staff to become critical thinkers, enthusiastic readers, skillful researchers, and ethical users of information.

**Grades K-2** will follow a FIXED schedule – scheduled weekly 30 minute sessions with storytime, skills lessons, activities, and checkout.

**Grades 3-5** will follow the FLEXIBLE schedule – classes or small groups are scheduled for instructional time in the library as instructional goals are identified. Students in grades 3-5 will be taught to use the online catalog. This skill is necessary to search for titles, subjects, and/or authors of material in our library. Since our library's holdings may be searched using the Internet, patrons have the capability to access Ward's library catalog from home: <http://hcps.sirsi.net/>

Individuals and small groups may independently use the library as often as necessary. All students are permitted to use the library to do research, complete assignments, browse, listen to or view AV materials, and to share books, book reports, etc., as their needs dictate.

### **Open Access**

All students may check out and return books every day 7:30 a.m.-2:10 p.m.

If you have questions, please contact me, Andrea Velle 795-7030 or email [acvelle@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:acvelle@henrico.k12.va.us)



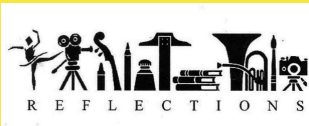


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## There are many ways to stay connected with your PTA

- Follow our blog to keep informed with the latest Ward PTA updates! (<http://henrywardpta.wordpress.com/>)
- From the blog, click on the Newsletter tab and sign up to receive our PTA monthly newsletter via e-mail!
- Facebook fans can also follow our *Henry Ward Elementary PTA* Facebook group.

Hi, I'm Janet Slater, your Ward PTA VP of Programs. I am happy to let you know that we this year Ward will be participating in the National PTA Reflections Program.



The National PTA Reflections program is PTA's cornerstone arts program. It offers students the opportunity to earn local, state and even national recognition for original artwork they create in response to a specific theme. This year's entries should reflect upon and interpret the theme: ***The world would be a better place if...***

Request a PTA Reflections Entry Form today from [wardptapp@gmail.com](mailto:wardptapp@gmail.com) and return by October 31st.

I am also putting together committees for various Programs we will be working on for throughout the school year. If you are interested in helping with one of our other Programs planned for this school year, please contact me for more information at [wardptapp@gmail.com](mailto:wardptapp@gmail.com)



## EXPLORE the Arts! PARTICIPATE in PTA Reflections

Theme: "The world would be a better place if..."

*Reflect on the theme. Create an original work. Be recognized.*

### ART CATEGORIES:



Dance Choreography



Music Composition



Film Production



Photography



Literature



Visual Arts

Deadline for entries: October 31, 2014

For details, contact: [wardptapp@gmail.com](mailto:wardptapp@gmail.com)