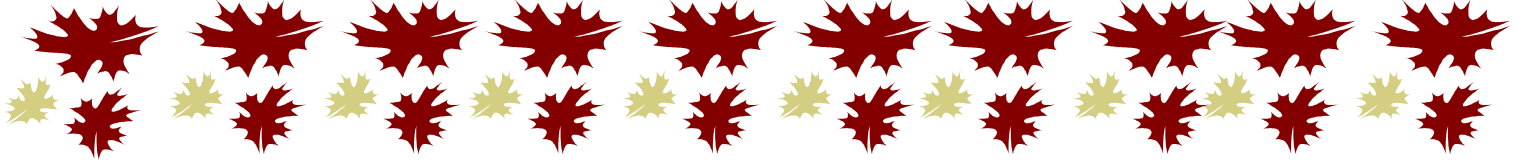




# The Powhatan Signal

Powhatan Secondary Newsletter VOL. XXVIX NO. 4 October 2012



## Our SeaStars

Andrea Freeland

Wow! We had another great swim season and we had a lot of fun. We tied for second in Division 2 this summer and placed 7<sup>th</sup> at Champs. We had our end of the season celebration on August 8<sup>th</sup> at the clubhouse. I want to give special recognition to our Coaching Staff and thank them for doing such a marvelous job and stepping up to be great role models for our neighborhood kids-Matt Dryden, Olivia Freeland, Kyle Evans, Devan Freeland, Miles Little and Lauren Wood. It is so amazing to see where some of our swimmers start and how far they come by the end of the season.

Special thanks to the Executive Board -Eric Dawnkaski, Beth Robles, Kim Squire and Mike Squire. Swimming requires lots of parent volunteers but I also want to publicly thank these special Committee Chairs-Beth Emerson in Concessions, Chris Walls with Clerk of Course, Melanie Felbinger for her Team Pictures, Amy Dassler and Ginny VanWicklin with Scoring and Ribbons, Kendy Wood in Hospitality, Mike Squire for being Head Timer, Laura Walls for heading up our Weestar Meet and Cindy Satira for all of her support and hard work throughout the summer. Running a swim team takes the dedication of the entire team.

This is my last year being on the Swim team Board but it is time for me to volunteer in other capacities. I want to thank every single one of you that helped throughout the years to make this team not only successful but fun. I am very proud to say that our team is the only team in our swim league that requires you to live in the community and I truly believe that is the key to our season every year. I have a lot of great memories of pancake breakfasts, Movie Mondays, Cereal Parties, Tie -Dye Parties, Coaches Relays, Weestar, pizza parties and night swims after home meets, poster and bow making, not to mention the times we stopped somewhere for a cool treat on our way back from away meets. But the greatest memories of all were seeing the faces of the swimmers-

across the pool for the first time without stopping, winning a relay when we needed to in order to win the meet, seeing the Weestars in their kickboard race, and the sweet smiles when they were hugged by their parents coming out of the pool after a tough swim. I have been blessed to have coaches that were also my daughters and I enjoyed hearing stories about who was improving and who had said something sweet to them that somehow made the 8:00 practices every day worth it.

I encourage more swimmers to join the team and I especially encourage those of you who have never been to a meet to come and visit on a Monday night to see the good in our children and teenagers. Practice will start again in May so keep your eye out for sign-ups in early spring.

**GO SEASTARS!**





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## Powhatan Secondary Plays International Ambassador

Submitted by: Susan Stallings

This summer Powhatan Secondary played a major role in helping over 110 French and Italian high school students form first hand opinions about America and Americans. Through trips organized by the local group, Illuminations Cultural Experiences, high school students who have been studying the English language and culture since elementary school have the opportunity to travel with their English teachers to the United States on what most of them refer to as the trip of a lifetime.

One of the most unique components of the short-term trips organized through Illuminations is that students live with American host families for the majority of their stay in the United States. This allows students to really experience American culture and it also requires them to use their English language skills in a natural setting. The students also attend language and culture classes while they are visiting to improve their language skills and understanding of our country. This summer alone over a dozen Powhatan Secondary families hosted a student or two and the Clubhouse provided a wonderful location for their instruction. Gayla Johnson, a Powhatan Secondary resident has been active in the efforts of Illuminations for many years and takes great pride in matching the visiting students with just the right host family based on similar interest etc. Gayla loves bringing people together and so many lifelong international relationships started because she made a call.

This summer students from four different schools in France and Italy were able to learn about America not only through the classes but also from visits to Jamestown, Colonial Williamsburg, Yorktown, Shirley Plantation, Richmond, DC, and New York. They also experienced our culture while playing Laser Tag at WISC, swinging through the trees at Go Ape, taking in a movie in New Town, bowling, and of course shopping till they nearly dropped at the outlets. They definitely stay busy and see a lot, but as one teacher from a group this summer wrote, "After visiting New York for 4 days when we departed Williamsburg, I expected them (the students) to be starry eyed about the big city the entire flight home; .....however, all I heard them talking and crying about how much they were going to miss Williamsburg and their host families!"

It may not seem like a big deal, but the impact and impressions made on and by these international students are incalculable. The cultural enriching and perspective challenging nature of Illumination's home stay programs often have long term impact on

everyone involved. And none of this would have been possible if not for the generosity of so many Powhatan Secondary families. You opened your hearts and homes to these students and that made a difference. America and Americans now have a very specific face and location. Just imagine how many times *Google earth* has zoomed in on Powhatan Secondary as excited students pointed out their "American home"? Thank you, Powhatan Secondary!!!

Illuminations is excited to be planning a trip to take local students to France next spring for a similar experience. If you are interested in more information about on how your child can be a part of this experience email: [sustallings@aol.com](mailto:sustallings@aol.com).



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## **Board Meeting Overview**

Submitted by Jim West, President

The Grounds Committee was formed this year, and they have been hard at work reviewing the PCSA Reserve Study. Work is about to begin on the trails where storms have toppled trees and caused damage to the trail system. Look for this work to begin in September.

Tim Feldbinger, a Boy Scout from Troop 103, has offered to work on a portion of the trail that retains water for his Eagle Scout project. When it rains, water stands in the way of residents being able to utilize the trail, so the Board has accepted his offer. His hard work will benefit our community at a fraction of what it would cost us to hire a contractor. Thank you, Tim!

Following the swim season, the clubhouse parking lot has been resealed and parking spaces repainted. In addition, the interior of the Multi-Purpose Building has received a fresh coat of paint, new carpeting and tile flooring. Minor repairs to the clubhouse ceiling have been completed as well. If you have an interest in serving on the Grounds Committee, please contact Jeff at [grounds@powhatansecondary.org](mailto:grounds@powhatansecondary.org).

A meeting with Cluster Way residents took place on August 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the situation with their roadway. This is the only private road inside Powhatan Secondary. The residents on this road way pay an extra assessment for lighting and maintenance of this roadway. As a result, the Board of Directors sought their input in the repair/replacement of this road.

An Executive Session of the Board of Directors took place on August 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss contractual agreements and to interview attorneys for the task of rewriting the governing documents. Our governing documents expire in 2014, and the Board of Directors wants to be ahead of the dead line with the completion of this project.

An ad-hoc committee is being formed to discuss the sustainability of the swimming pool. The Board's Treasurer, Carl Thompson, volunteered to Chair this committee.

The Social Committee has had several successful ice cream socials this year, and has more events planned through the end of the year. If you would like to help with any of these events, the help is certainly welcomed. Please contact Jody at [social@powhatansecondary.org](mailto:social@powhatansecondary.org).

The PCSA Annual Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 30, 2012 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. We hope that everyone will have an opportunity to come by and join in the fun and fellowship. The rain date is October 7, 2012.

Congratulations to the 2012 Powhatan Secondary Sea Stars on a successful season! They represented our community with pride.

## **Communications Committee**

The Communications Committee was formed in May of this year to centralize the different ways we communicate with the residents of Powhatan Secondary. The newsletter, website, new resident welcome packets, neighborhood bulletin boards, and emails blasts all fall under this new committee.

Our major initiative over the summer was to taking ownership of our website [www.PowhatanSecondary.org](http://www.PowhatanSecondary.org). Previously, any changes to the site were handled by an outside company. Taking ownership ourselves allows us to make changes more quickly and at no cost to the association. We are fortunate that David Banks volunteered his time to lead this effort. Going forward, we will continue to make improvements to both the content and usability of the site, so let us know if you have any suggestions.

In other areas, Louise Pearson has always done a great job with our new resident welcome packets. Earlier this summer she reviewed all of the information we include to ensure that it is up to date and made revisions as needed. As for the newsletter, it our editor Mary Griffith continues to turn out great issues like clockwork.

Next up on our radar is replacing the neighborhood bulletin boards. The two along Powhatan Secondary are both showing significant signs of wear. We are currently soliciting bids for their replacement and hope to have them both replaced this fall.

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## First Impressions

Submitted by: Kris MacKenzie

The day after Labor Day is really the beginning of fall when you see young and older children coming together with their friends at the bus stop; running and jumping in anticipation of their first day back after summer break. I remember the butterflies in your stomach and taking time to choose your coolest outfit including new book pack and all your vacation memories. First impressions were important and seeing your friends after the summer vacation was exciting. The sounds of Williamsburg when the buses come rolling down the street or hearing the kids screaming or playing after a long day of learning are part of who we are young and old. School was never about just the subjects but about learning how to play the game of life. Children now a days seem to have more pressure to succeed and parent involvement in our community is refreshing. I love seeing neighbors help out other working parents in the community by walking a child to the bus stop or giving them odd jobs to do around their homes and compensating them for it. Remember your first lawn mowing or babysitting job and you already had the money spent in your head before you completed the job. What a great sense of accomplishment.

So as we move into cooler weather, pumpkin patches, back-to school nights, soccer, football, Boy and Girl Scout meetings remember to stop a safe distance behind the school buses. Encourage children of all ages with a warm smile and support our community with their fundraisers. Powhatan Secondary should win an award for the friendliest neighborhood in Williamsburg. We loved raising our daughter here and have enjoyed the many wonderful and diverse group of friends that we've met over the years.

## Fall Planting

Submitted by: Leanne Conrad

Fall is the best time of year to fix up the not so pretty parts of your yard. This is the ideal time to get your lawn back in shape by seeding those bare spots that have crept in over the summer due to the heat and drought conditions. It's also a perfect time to plant trees, shrubs and perennials. Yes, you can also plant in the Spring, but the plants, specifically the roots have less time to become established before the summer months.

If you are looking for plants with winter interest for your yard you can try shrubs like Winterberry or Pyracantha. Both shrubs provide beautiful, clumps of bright red berries during the winter. I particularly like them because you can cut them and use them in holiday arrangements. (They sell Winterberry branches at the Williamsburg Farmer's Market during the holiday season.) Helleborus is a perennial that is easy to grow here in Williamsburg and is one of the first flowers to bloom in late January and February. If you are looking for a tree that still maintains interest in the winter, look for ones with exfoliating bark, such as the Paperbark Maple which has a cinnamon color bark that peels.

These are just suggestions and you will need to do a little research to make sure your planting spot has the appropriate light and soil conditions for any of these plants.

So come on neighbors, get out there and plant away!



Paperbark Maple Tree

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## Grounds Committee

Submitted by Susan Bennett

The newly-formed grounds committee is slowly taking shape. This committee will oversee maintenance of physical aspects of our community such as mulching, maintenance of common areas and buildings, and maintenance of our trails and lakes among other tasks. We are still seeking volunteers as there is much work to be done. Whether you are interested in becoming a formal part of this committee or if you would be willing to help with individual projects, we encourage you to contact PCSA president, Jim West at [j-west@cox.net](mailto:j-west@cox.net) for more information.

My particular interest is in helping maintain the rather extensive trail system we have within Powhatan Secondary. In recent months we have been working to clear storm debris and downed trees. But we are also working to develop a systematic approach to address numerous trail issues. To this end, committee chairman, Jeff Long, has begun compiling a detailed list of trail deficiencies/problems that can then be prioritized. These items will then be further discussed at regular meetings.

We encourage anyone who sees deficiencies in the trail system, lakes, etc to email them to [pcsa\\_grounds@gmail.com](mailto:pcsa_grounds@gmail.com). Including pictures would be helpful. In the future, we might also send out calls for volunteers to help fix certain items since doing as much work as we can ourselves will help keep costs down for our community.

## Clubhouse Committee

Submitted by Louise Pearson

**The Powhatan Secondary Clubhouse** has been a center of activity this summer. Many organizations and private individuals have used the facility and grounds with great success. In an attempt to keep the place in good condition, Bear's Painting repaired and painted the ceiling with no interruption of the scheduled events making it ready for the fall and winter activities.

In order to keep the facility in good condition, the committee has a group of dedicated volunteers who inspect before and after each usage. Their observation is that a majority of users are very respectful of the rules governing the usage of the facility. However there continue to be problems with some users showing up early based on their reserved time and staying long after the reserved time. This abuse of the rules truly produces inconvenience for the reviewer and others scheduled to use the facility. Berkeley will continue to remind users to strictly adhere to the exact times for which they have rented the facility. Please be realistic in the time needed for event preparation and clean-up and schedule your reservation to allow enough time!

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Other problems encountered involve setting the temperature to extreme which is not necessary as the place heats and cools very quickly, leaving the doors open, and leaving fans running when no one is present. These are all examples of actions which cause undue expenses for our community. The committee urges all users to follow the guidelines, and if they have questions to contact Berkeley.

The committee will be reviewing the present user rate to determine if the present fee is covering the expenses associated with the clubhouse.

**The Multi-Use Facility** has been newly renovated and we are hoping that all our youth groups will have their regular meetings in this very student-friendly facility. The walls, flooring, white board, bulletin board and bathroom improvements are an attempt to provide the perfect place for scouts and other student groups to meet for their regular meetings, saving the clubhouse for their more formal inductions and ceremonies. Space to store materials from week to week will be available. Bear's Painting did an outstanding job in painting the room, bathroom, and the stairs leading to the room.

If you have a group and would like to see the Multi-Use room, please contact Louise Pearson at 229-7438 or [louisepearson@cox.net](mailto:louisepearson@cox.net) and she will be happy to give you a special tour.

## Powhatan Secondary Concerns & Who to Contact

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Dues/monies owed to <i>PCSA</i>	<i>Berkeley Realty Property Mgmt</i> [CJ Jones, Tel: 229-6810]
Clubhouse & Multi-Use Bldg Reservations	<i>Berkeley Realty Property Mgmt</i> [CJ Jones, Tel: 229-6810]
<u>Sub-Associations:</u>	
Dues/monies owed to Cromwell Ridge Condo Assn	<i>Community Group</i> [Gina Combs, Tel: 873-1800, x-306]
“ “ “ “ Powhatan Place HOA	<i>Berkeley Realty Property Mgmt</i> [Ed Robbins Tel: 229-6810]
“ “ “ “ Powhatan Village HOA and Waterford HOA	<i>Chesapeake Bay Management, Inc,</i> [Jessica Liceaga, Tel: 757-969-0718]
Architectural control and covenant enforcement for all areas <u>except</u> the four sub-associations (as noted above)	<i>Berkeley Realty Property Mgmt</i> [CJ Jones, Tel: 229-6810]
Architectural control and covenant enforcement for Sub-Associations:	
Cromwell Ridge Condo Assn	<i>Community Group</i> [Gina Combs, Tel: 873-1800, x-306]
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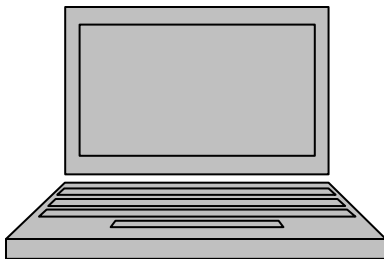
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**December 7, 2012** is the Deadline for all submissions for the January 2013 issue of **The Powhatan Signal**. Please mark your calendar!

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**Editor/Publisher** Mary Griffith 258-0453

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President: *Jim West* 345-6239  
Vice-president: *Jeff Long* 206-1188  
Secretary: *Jose Robles* 229-1044\*  
Treasurer: *Carl Thompson* 903-7843  
\*non-voting member

#### **Other Members:**

*John Chapman* 565-6011  
*Chris Phillips* 229-8827  
*Glenda Turner* 345-3599

**Next PCSA Board of Directors Meeting\***  
**November 20, 2012**

*\*Any PCSA member may attend. Meetings are held at the Clubhouse at 6:30 P.M.*



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