



REFLECTIONS

empowering bright minds who think & learn differently

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Please direct questions or comments about this publication to
info@tncs.org or 804.266.2494 x2229.

On a scale of 1 to 10, these Sabers are being 11s while straining through the wall sit competition at the *Be an 11!* clinic conducted by BiggerFasterStronger, Inc. President John Rowbotham. Wyatt was able to hang on the longest – about 5 minutes!

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AT TNCS

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What is thought leadership? Per thoughtleadershiplab.com, thought leaders are the informed opinion leaders and the go-to people in their field of expertise. They are trusted sources who move and inspire people with innovative ideas, turn ideas into reality, and know and show how to replicate their success.

The New Community School is a thought leader in the field of dyslexia. We are the go-to people in the Richmond area for expertise on dyslexia and related learning issues. For over 40 years, we have transformed the lives of our students, opening doors that would have otherwise not been opened to them.

We are being intentional about sharing this knowledge and expertise with our community, fellow educators, and the international dyslexia field. We have not only created a remediation strand that works, we have created programs and practice pedagogy that support our students. An example of this is our TNCS Study Strategies Toolbox. Our study skills program started over ten years ago in Josh Roy's science classroom. Over time, it has expanded into all classes at all levels. Mr. Roy has presented our strategies locally, at the state level, and this fall at the International Dyslexia Association's annual conference. We can now offer training and sell manuals to share this successful program with others.

We have been very intentional about designing programs that build on the strengths of our students, while supporting their areas of challenge. Our advanced Language Fundamentals class addresses what our students need once they have completed our basic language instruction. This course focuses on higher-level reading, writing, and vocabulary, often using college-level texts. Robin Forsyth presented our framework at this fall's International Dyslexia Association's annual conference. Her presentation was entitled, "Beyond Syllable Patterns." Both Mr. Roy and Ms. Forsyth shared their presentations with over a hundred attendees.

For the past three summers, The Commonwealth of Virginia has offered a course for classroom teachers on multisensory language instruction. Their instructor, Mary Stowe, uses our very own Keystone manual as the text for this course.

Over the last year, I have presented to corporate groups, the Richmond Juvenile Justice System, and several groups from The University of Richmond, sharing accurate information on what dyslexia is and is not. In partnership with The University of Richmond, I led a three-day Dyslexia Institute

In addition to presenting at the IDA Conference, TNCS also exhibited and debuted the new Study Strategies Toolbox.



with the target audience being public school teachers and administrators. More than thirty educators attended and grew in their understanding of dyslexia and related learning differences.

Our faculty know how to teach our students using engaging, multisensory methods. Last May, both Adam Rothschild and Becca Carmichael participated on a panel on "What Works" at the Virginia Branch of the International Dyslexia Association's annual conference.

Faculty have been publishing their thought leadership as well. Carolyn Latta recently provided an article in this fall's inaugural edition of the Virginia Association of Independent School's Vision Magazine, sharing how her multisensory strategies help make history come alive and stick at the same time. Donn Lancaster shared his passion for our students with the Richmond Times Dispatch. TNCS faculty are also sharing their thoughts on our faculty blog: tncs.org/resources/blog.

TNCS has exhibited at three national conferences this year, furthering our recognition and opportunities to share our thought leadership. Being a thought leader is both an honor and a responsibility. As we continue to develop exemplary programs for our students, we will continue to share this knowledge, expertise, and passion.



Nancy Foy, Head of School

NEW ACADEMIC BUILDING TAKES SHAPE

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If you have visited or driven by school in the last few months you have seen that progress has been made on our new academic building. Since breaking ground in June of 2016, Hourigan Construction has been hard at work to deliver our new building on time and on budget. While weather remains a factor, Hourigan feels that we should be able to move in to our new building in April. This building, with new academic classrooms, language fundamentals rooms, intentional visual and performing arts studios, collaborative workspace, the Julia Ann Greenwood Commons, and more, is a transformative moment in the life of our school.

RAPID PROGRESS

Since the summer we have seen steady progress in construction. The shaft for the elevator was the first element to rise from the ground, followed soon after by the steel skeleton. Throughout the fall, students have enjoyed watching the walls go up and the roof go on. As of this writing, the exterior of the building is nearly complete. Masons are finishing the brickwork, which is designed to complement both Massey Hall and the Activities Center.

Windows are in place and doors will be arriving soon. With the building reasonably weathertight, work has begun on the interior rooms. Wall studs are going up and installation of sheetrock has begun. As you walk through, you can already get a feel for what a wonderful place this will be for our school.

Furnishings have been selected and are specially designed

to help our students learn. For example, each classroom will include a height adjustable “sit/stand” desk for students who need greater freedom of movement. Classroom chairs were selected for their comfort and flexibility and the new language fundamentals rooms will include “buoy” chairs, which help students focus by keeping them moving.

SECURITY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY ENHANCEMENTS

As the design of the building has progressed, the school has chosen to make some key investments in the areas of security and energy efficiency. We are using this new building to model updates that we will be making throughout campus over time. Main entrances to the building will be wired to allow them to be locked and unlocked remotely. Fingerprint readers will be installed at these locations to allow students to enter the building. Additionally, the building is being wired for cameras to allow for safe monitoring at all times.

Lighting has been upgraded to energy efficient LED fixtures throughout the building. Significant work has been done to ensure these lights will create an effective learning environment while saving cost. In the long run they will more than pay for themselves in energy savings, in addition to TNCS doing its part to conserve and reduce our carbon footprint.



Michael Bland, Board of Trustees
Buildings and Grounds Chair

HARD HAT TOURS AVAILABLE

The school will be conducting frequent hard hat tours of the new building during the final weeks of construction. If you would like to take a tour, please call the Development Office at 804.264.3276.





Building on Strengths Almost to Goal But Still Needs Your Help!

Thanks to more than 200 donors, the *Building on Strengths* campaign is getting very close to its goal! Thank you to everyone who has contributed. Today we have just over \$200,000 left to raise to successfully fund the construction of the new building and provide a fund for its long-term maintenance. To learn more about how you can be involved, please visit tncs.org.

TNCS PARENTS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

A RAFFLE

to benefit The New Community School

trio

TICKETS: **3 for \$25**
\$10 each **15 for \$100**



A YEAR OF
GREAT DATES



TOURIST IN
YOUR OWN TOWN



6 GRAPES
AND A SABER

Visit tncs.org/support/read for more details and to purchase tickets.

JULIA ANN GREENWOOD COMMONS

Much Needed Gathering and Collaborative Space

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Before retiring as head of school in 2012, one of the last things that Julia Ann Greenwood worked on was a proposal to build a stand-alone commons building on campus. She recognized that the school did not have a place for students to gather.

"I felt for a long time that we needed a place to gather for lunch and programs, a place for assembly, a place for special academic programs and art, and a place for greeting guests," says Mrs. Greenwood. "Ideally this would be a place for 'community' within The New Community School."

As enrollment has grown, the needs for the new building have expanded to include more teaching space and new visual and performing arts studios, in addition to the community space as envisioned by Mrs. Greenwood. The school was proud

to announce this fall that the commons space in the new building will be named the Julia Ann Greenwood Commons. "We knew the vision that Julia Ann had for a commons was still vital to the school", says Nancy Foy, Head of School. "Naming the commons in her honor is a wonderful way to celebrate Julia Ann's decades of commitment to TNCS."

I am glad to see this astonishing new building and am proud to be honored by the naming of the Greenwood Commons," says Mrs. Greenwood. Once completed, the commons will be a place where every student will gather almost every day. If you would like to help honor Mrs. Greenwood, gifts to *Building on Strengths* can be designated to the Julia Ann Greenwood Commons. Please call 804.264.3276 for more information.



Rendering of the Julia Ann Greenwood Commons by Evolve Architecture



READ ART SHOW & SALE

Fun and Funds for TNCS

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On March 24th and 25th The New Community School's Parents Association will host the 9th Annual READ Art Show & Sale in the school's Activities Center. READ is the Parents Association's biggest event of the year, bringing hundreds of people to campus to see and buy works from more than 80 regional artists. The Activities Center is transformed into the best art gallery in town!

This year's featured artist is Laura Loe. In addition to being an accomplished oil painter whose works have been shown in exhibitions throughout Virginia and the mid-Atlantic, Laura has the distinction of being only the second featured artist who is also a TNCS parent. Her son, Charlie, is in his second year at TNCS. When asked how it felt to be chosen as the featured artist this year, Laura responded, "Very flattering! I know even among the other parents there are many creatives so it was very nice to be asked!"

The READ Art Show & Sale begins on Friday, March 24 with a ticketed preview reception. Your ticket gets you first chance to purchase your favorite art and includes complimentary food, drink, and live music! This event draws more than 300 people and is one of the most enjoyable nights of the year. It is also a great way to introduce The New Community School to your friends. READ Art Show & Sale sponsorships are also a great way for local businesses to make a very visible investment in our school and get some useful benefits, as

well! Proceeds from the show go directly back to the school, supporting financial aid, student life, academics, and more. Visit tncs.org/support/read for more information and to purchase your tickets.



Barbara Crosby
READ Art Show & Sale Co-Chair

SUMMER programs 2017



MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

small class sizes designed to improve academic skills and explore new passions in a fun and supportive environment

catalog & enrollment forms:

tncs.org/resources/summer-programs



ART FOR A CAUSE: ART SHOW & SALE
regional artists supporting students who learn differently

MARCH 24-25, 2017

FRIDAY 7-9pm, \$40 | SATURDAY 10am-4pm, free

 **The New Community School**

4211 HERMITAGE RD | 804.266.2494 | TNCS.ORG

9th annual
READ

CREATING A LEGACY

Dickinson Greenwood Society Members Create Lasting Impact for the School

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Since 1974, The New Community School has been dedicated to helping students with dyslexia and related learning differences. What we do is only possible because of the generosity of those who believe in the school's mission. We are so fortunate to have the support of hundreds of our friends from across the country who choose to support the school each year. One particular group of investors has chosen to help in a way that will impact the school for generations to come.

The members of the Dickinson Greenwood Society have remembered The New Community School in their estate plans, ensuring the financial security of the school. The Dickinson Greenwood Society was created in 2012 to honor two women vital to our school's success. When a concerned group of parents first came together to create TNCS, they called on Jean Dickinson for advice. Jean was among the first area psychologists to diagnose learning differences such as dyslexia. She trained New Community teachers and began the school's first development efforts. Her daughter, Julia Ann Greenwood, became a Language Fundamentals teacher in the school's first year and then led the school from 1977 until 2012 as Head of School. Because of the successes they nurtured, the trustees of The New Community School named the school's legacy society the Dickinson Greenwood Society.

It is never too early to start considering the impact you can make. "The many friends of TNCS who have joined the Dickinson Greenwood Society are able to begin creating a legacy gift that works for them, at whatever stage of life they find themselves," says Bradley Purcell, owner of The Purcell Group/Planned Giving Advantage, Inc., which provides advancement consultation to non-profit organizations. Bradley and his wife, Karen, are TNCS alumni parents and Dickinson Greenwood Society members. "People who consider a legacy gift are often surprised – even amazed – at the impact they are able to have, simply by including a gift in their estate plans," he says. "Legacy gifts can reflect not just the income from a job or the gains of a single year, but the output of an entire lifetime."

There are as many ways to give as there are reasons to give. Gifts of all sizes have helped shape The New Community School's academic program, nurtured outstanding teachers, enabled students to attend, and allowed donors to create a legacy in their name or in recognition of something or someone important to them. "My first day at TNCS forever

changed me," says Ryan Hickey, G'00. "This school gave me a sense of worth and self-confidence that EVERY child should experience. I still use the tools I learned to manage my personal and professional life. That is why I am proud to be an alum and proud to give back, which includes remembering The New Community School in our estate plans." Planning your legacy begins with a conversation with your family. We hope that as you plan for your future, you will remember The New Community School and help to carry on the important work of the school.

One of the simplest ways to make a planned gift is to name The New Community School as a beneficiary in your will or revocable trust. Bequests allow you to realize your vision for the future in a tangible way without a financial burden during your lifetime and may reduce estate taxes for heirs.

Planned gifts that qualify contributors for membership in the Dickinson Greenwood Society include gifts through:

- bequests,
- charitable trusts such as remainder and lead trusts,
- living and testamentary trusts,
- designation of retirement plan assets,
- gift annuities,
- life insurance designations,
- gifts of remainder interest in a home or farm, and
- beneficiary designations on financial accounts.

There is no minimum gift amount. While disclosure of the amount of a gift aids the school in its long-range planning, it is not required and can be made anonymously. Membership in the Dickinson Greenwood Society is permanent and will continue on a yearly basis as long as the gift remains in effect. Gifts may be either unrestricted or designated for a specific purpose within the school.

The New Community School benefits today from gifts that have been received in the past. As we look to the future, we hope our family will invest to strengthen the school for future generations. For more information about the Dickinson Greenwood Society, please call the Development Office at 804.264.3276 or visit tncs.org/support/planned-giving.



Dan Stackhouse, Director of Development

Gabe and Mackenzie play Hansel and Gretel in the Middle School play *Law and Order: Fairy Tale Unit*



THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DICKINSON GREENWOOD SOCIETY

Anonymous
Mrs. Gloria Arfert
Mrs. Nancy Beckett
Mr. and Mrs. W. David Bennett
Mr. and Mrs. John K. Bojarski
Mrs. Doris B. Burbank*
Mr. and Mrs. Custis Coleman, Jr.
Ms. Mary Maxwell Conner
Mr. Vangel L. Custer*
Duane A. and Janet Deskevich
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Ms. Katharine T. Gray

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Michael Greenwood
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Mr. Timothy H. Guare
Mr. and Mrs.* James E. Hardin
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Mr. and Mrs. William R. Trigg
The Reverend Janice F. Walker
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Whitty, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Craig G. Wilkinson, G'81
Mr. and Mrs. L. Brooks Zerkel
*deceased

SCENES AROUND CAMPUS

First Semester

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1



2



3



4

1. Henry, Kate, Mandy, Shawn, and Sydni help their team in the field day tug of war.
2. Tyler and Owen enjoy reminiscing after receiving last year's yearbook at the dedication assembly. The class of 2016 dedicated the yearbook to Mr. Russ Barwick, Facilities Manager.
3. Coach Brown and Alex strike their construction worker pose at the photo booth during the *Building on Strengths* Campaign Kickoff event.
4. Hallie and Lauren team up at the annual Middle School Pumpkin Carving activity.
5. Carson and Emery have success on an archeology dig.



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8



9



10

6. Gage, Matthew, Clarke, Ms. Witmeyer, Ned, Marshall, and Gray represent the Sabers well at a cross country meet.
7. Whitlock Field gets a new digital scoreboard.
8. Ross and Reade get ready to launch their design in the egg drop challenge for the judges on Science Fair day.
9. Mandy checks to make sure Jack is registered to vote in the 6th grade district before handing him his ballot to the mock election.
10. Madeline serves students and faculty during the annual holiday breakfast.



4211 Hermitage Road
Richmond, VA 23227

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Every student can learn.

Every student can
succeed.

YOU are the key
to unlocking their
POTENTIAL.

The New Community School Annual Fund is a vital source of support each year. Because of gifts to the Annual Fund, more students can attend through financial aid, and more students can achieve because of vibrant arts, challenging academics, vigorous athletics, and more.

A gift to the Annual Fund helps every New Community student realize their potential. Please make your gift today.



tncs.org/support/annual-fund