

The Student Leader

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VSCA State Office
Andrea Vail
VSCA Director
4909 Cutshaw Ave.
Richmond, VA 23230
(804) 370-0822
avail@scaleader.org
www.scaleader.org



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School Spirit, Pep Rallies, Homecoming....Oh My!

Happy October! All SCA advisers and members know that October ranks as one of, if not the, busiest months for any once involved in Student Council. I have no doubt that each of you have dedicated numerous hours to creating an environment where all students feel welcome and want to participate in all of the activities that you have planned.

October is also the time when the beginning of the school year excitement starts to dwindle. As student leaders and advisers, it is our responsibility to continue to make school a place where everyone feels that they have their place. Take the time to introduce yourself to someone new, invite someone to sit with you at lunch, mentor an underclassmen that may need a little guidance. There are the things that will not only help your school feel like a welcoming place, but the rewards that you will receive by making a new friend can be priceless.

Thank you all for the countless hours that you spend making your school and community a better place.

Andrea Vail

VSCA Director

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Liberty High School Homecoming

Liberty High School came together during our Homecoming Week by creating Homecoming floats sponsored by the SCA. The SCA secures the float judges and sets the guidelines and rules. Each class created a float representing their school spirit, their class, and dedication to winning the Homecoming game. Everyone's float was well made and original, but the class of 2017 was voted the best by the judges. Seniors came in a close second, juniors in third, and the freshmen in last place. The sophomores were awarded the Spirit Stick at the pep rally on Friday afternoon.



Happy Birthday!

Each month, the Grassfield SCA decorates a wall dedicated to students, faculty, and staff who are celebrating a birthday that given month. On the wall hangs a giant sign saying 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY' and around the sign are all the names of people with a birthday in that month. The theme of the display changes each month depending on seasons and holidays. This was implemented this year to ensure that each student gets individual recognition at least once though out the year.



Woodgrove High School Homecoming

This October, Homecoming celebrations were kicked off with a student-based fashion show. The Hype Squad, a group of students dedicated to leading school spirit and wearing neon, helped open the show with a brief performance. The show also included a Q&A session with the newly elected Homecoming Court, along with students modeling outfits for the upcoming spirit days. Models in the show also represented each class's specific Homecoming theme. In the summer, the Student Council selected 'Cinema' to be the overall theme for the dance. After that, each class chose a sub-theme. The senior class chose the Oscars, the junior class chose Disney, the sophomore class chose Pixar, and the freshman class chose Dream-Works. Models in the show represented these subthemes with various costumes and outfits.

Proceeds raised from the fashion show were put towards Woodgrove's first ever Movie on the Green event. Due to weather, the show had to be moved into the main gym. But despite the rain, many families with blankets and pillows in hand enjoyed a showing of Monster's Inc. on a huge 9x13 foot screen.

Stairwell decorating commenced following the movie night. Each class used a range of materials to decorate their designated stairwell in order to represent their chosen theme. Murals were also painted in each stairwell relating to each class's unique theme. These murals will be present for years to come remembering 2014 Homecoming. Decorations and murals were also judged during the week. The freshman class won best mural, and the sophomore class won best overall stairwell and mural combined.

Homecoming spirit week and an evening bonfire were also held during the week leading up to the dance. The spirit days included Pajama Day, Career Day, Class Spirit Day, and Wild Day. Spirit week outfits included a wide range from onesie pajamas on pajama day to lab coats on career day. A bonfire was included in the events preceding the dance. Hot chocolate and snacks were provided at the bonfire, and the event was said to be similar to the bonfire scene in Grease.



Adviser Spotlight

Mrs. Mary Stearett Buckingham County High School

This month we are highlighting the SCA Adviser at Buckingham County High School, Mrs. Mary Stearett. She has been incredible active in VSCA for many years and has been honored as a past VSCA Adviser of the Year. We asked Mrs. Stearett a few questions to give us some insight on what makes her such a successful SCA adviser.

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

Mrs. Stearett: Working with the students to become more service oriented. I enjoy the enthusiasm that each one has towards becoming a better leader and how they want to nurture our community. Their pride and commitment is extraordinary and it continues to amaze me how they are becoming model citizens for our communities.

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

Mrs. Stearett: I think it is not just one but it is one type. It is the service projects that the students do to benefit members of our community in need, whether it be from an illness, fire, or simply not having the necessary means to survive on a daily basis. Their hearts are full of love and this makes me proud. We have had 4 teachers on our faculty that have had cancer in the last 4 years and the students have raised over \$15,000; we have adopted numerous families at Christmas over the last 20 years and the students have raised over \$30,000. They raised this money by sponsoring events and partnering with their communities. They are truly building connections that will last a lifetime and in the process, becoming the leaders of tomorrow.

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

Mrs. Stearett: Work with your students but serve as their adviser. Remember they will make mistakes but help them to learn from them. They are the ones we want to become the best they can be. Get as much sleep and rest as you can when you can because it is a demanding job if you want the students to succeed. Keep an open communication with the students, faculty, and administration and always make sure the students have their plans done before getting the approval of the administration. Invite all faculty and administration to SCA events and continually recognize them for their help. Thank your students for the good work that they do and drop notes of encouragement daily.

VSCA: Why do you think VSCA is important?

Mrs. Stearett: VSCA is an important part of the leadership ladder. It helps to train leaders across the state as well as help students and advisers build connections. These connections last a lifetime and help define the leaders that we are or want to become. It builds enthusiasm and spirit and motivates our young adults to become outstanding citizens in their communities. In doing this for the last 36 years I can honestly say that VSCA has helped my students take risks and develop into better productive leaders and I have truly made connections that will last a lifetime.

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

Do you have a question for

Mrs. Stearett?

Contact her at stem@bcpschools.org