

The Wolftrap Connection

A biweekly newsletter jointly published by the Wolftrap Administration and PTA

Greetings from the Principal

Dear Wolftrap Families:

Thank you very much for the support we have received from you in the first week of school. It has been a great beginning of the year and teachers and students are already very busy in their classrooms.

I am very excited about the changes we have made this year in order to streamline communication and I hope you find the Wolftrap Connection to be your one-stop place to find all important school-wide information. I am thankful to the Wolftrap PTA Communications Team and the PTA Board for all of their hard work in making this joint effort a reality! Every two weeks you will receive the Wolftrap Connection directly to your email inbox and a copy of each edition will be archived on the Wolftrap website for your future reference.

If you have not already [joined the PTA](#) this year, I highly encourage you to do so and get involved. All students at Wolftrap benefit from the events and programs run by this strong organization and the monies raised through a variety of fundraisers directly support each classroom and each teacher.

We have several important events in the next two weeks, including Back to School Night, Wolftrap Under the Stars, the PTA Welcome Coffee for new families, and the Watch D.O.G.S. Pizza Party!

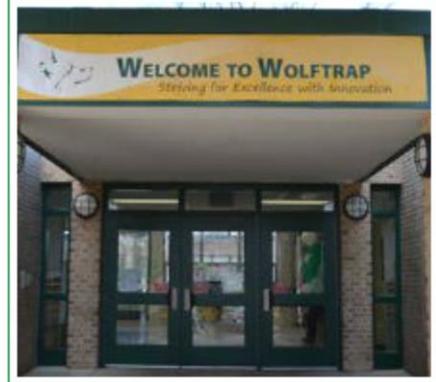
Back to School Night will take place on Thursday, Sept. 7, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Please note that this is a parent-only event. Each teacher will present twice in order to allow parents with more than one child to attend both sessions. Several of our grade levels will be presenting as a team in designated large spaces, instead of classrooms. Those rooms are indicated at right. Our specialists will also be available to meet with you in the front hall area should you have questions.

Please be kind to our neighbors and do not block driveways. We look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night!



Sincerely,

Teresa Khuluki,
Wolftrap Principal



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Page 7-8: AAP Newsletter

Back to School Night meeting locations

Kindergarten: Classrooms
1st grade: Classrooms
2nd grade: Classrooms
3rd grade: Cafeteria
4th grade: Leyton Lab
5th grade: Gym
6th grade: Library

Greetings from the PTA

On behalf of the Wolftrap Elementary PTA Board, welcome to all our new and returning families and teachers! We are looking forward to a fantastic year filled with community events and enrichment programs for our kids (and us too!). Keep reading through this first edition of our Wolftrap Connection for more details. September is packed with lots of opportunities to reconnect.

We wouldn't be able to offer so many events and programs without the very generous continued support of our Wolftrap families. PTA membership provides much of this support. To join the PTA, visit our website -- wolftrappta.org -- and sign up for a Membership Tool Kit account. You will then be directed on how to join the PTA. Membership is \$25 for one parent or \$40 per family. Last year, we were fortunate enough to have almost 75% of our families join the PTA and we hope to top that participation rate this year.

Another way to support the PTA is through attendance at our regular meetings. Our **first PTA meeting** will be on Thursday, Sept. 14th, at 8:45 a.m. in the Teachers Lounge. Come join us as we discuss the 2017 - 2018 budget and plans for spending funds carried over from last year. We will also discuss areas where the PTA could use some additional help. We will also host a **Welcome Coffee** for new families (or anyone that would like to learn more about what the PTA does) on Friday, Sept. 15th, at 9 a.m. in the Teachers Lounge.

We're excited to get this school year underway and are always around if you need us. Feel free to reach out anytime!

The 2017 - 2018 PTA Board:

Michelle Ramos, president (president@wolftrappta.org)

Sarah Helou, president-elect (president-elect@wolftrappta.org)

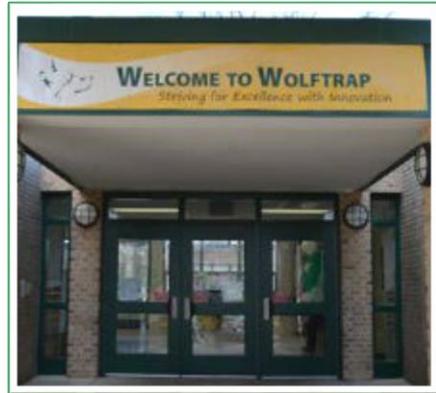
Doris Sandall, secretary (secretary@wolftrappta.org)

Lori Bowlin, treasurer (treasurer@wolftrappta.org)

Volunteers needed

All of the many programs and activities run by the PTA can't take place without the support of dozens of volunteers throughout the school year. We are always happy to welcome new help at any time. In particular, both our Communications and Webmaster teams need more volunteers to assist in managing our newsletter, Facebook, and web page maintenance.

[See our flyer](#) for more info on these positions.



Faculty

New members in **bold**

KINDERGARTEN: Ellen Carbalaj, Kristina Kroon, **Ellen Mekhagnomdara**

FIRST GRADE: Hope Bolyard, **Laura McBride**, Kelly McCoy

SECOND GRADE: Stephanie Burdett, **Jeremy Cohen**, Kathleen Mehari, Annie Van Hilst

THIRD GRADE: **Stephanie Case**, Debbie Clinage, Samira Ramezan

FOURTH GRADE: Dana Harlan, Shannon Stubbs, Shannon Stulb

FIFTH GRADE: Jessica Bennett, Cynthia Bush, Lydia Cubbage, Lisa Long

SIXTH GRADE: Brian Batsel, Amy Beans, Mary Beth Hazelgrove, Sharon Kassing

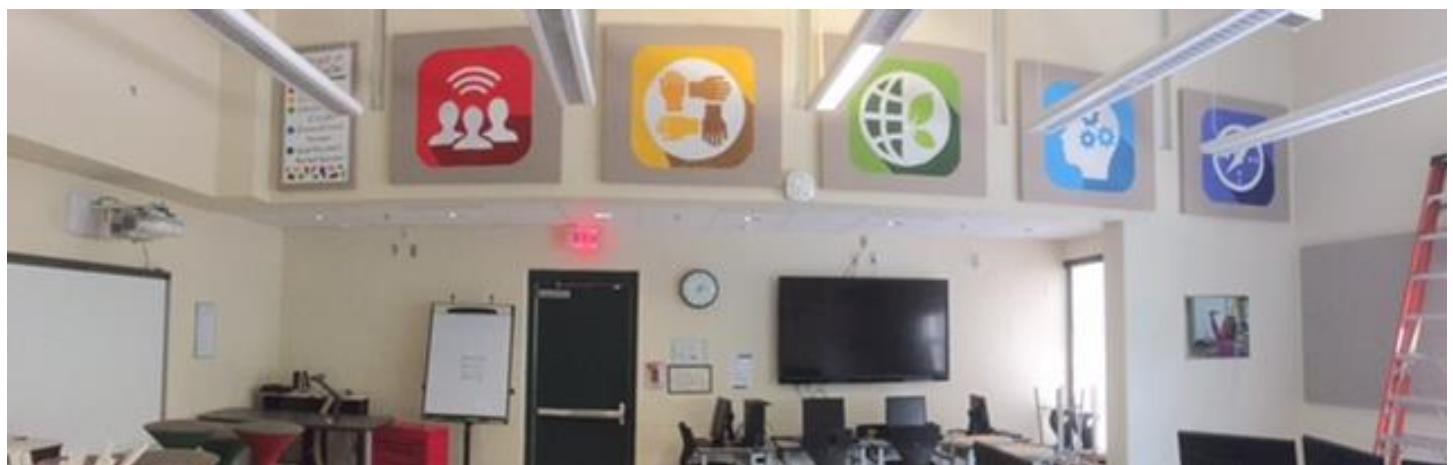
SPECIAL EDUCATION: Susan Robb, **Kathleen Piester**, **Christine Fraser**, **Cara Iselin**, Megan Kime

(continued on page 4)



Murals inspire students in STEAM lab and Wolftrap halls

Thanks to our art teacher, Ms. Mallino, for the art that's been added to our school this year!



Register for After School Programs

Registration for fall programs will begin at 7 a.m. Sept. 5. Some classes fill up quickly!

To register for the After School enrichment classes, log onto your PTA account and go to the "My Account" tab to register. **You must be a PTA member to register!**

Classes offered this fall include:

- Coding with Fun
- Puzzle Club
- Stop Motion Animation
- Wolftrap Writers
- Advanced Drawing & Painting
- Hip Hop (dance)
- Wiffleball/Kickball
- Yoga
- Running Club
- Tiny Chefs Kids Cook Off
- Spanish Immersion
- Chess

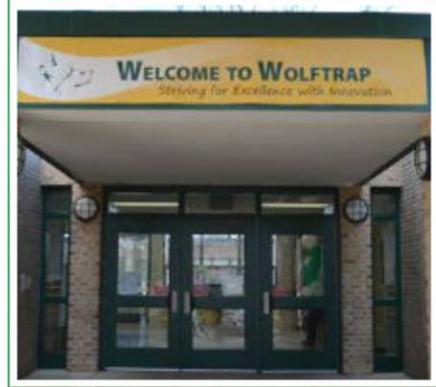
See the [full brochure online](#) and learn [more about our programs](#).

Advanced Academic Programs

Dr. Grove, Wolftrap's Advanced Academic Resource Teacher, will have a **parent information meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 27th**, from 5:30 to 6:30 in the Wolftrap library. She'll go over the levels of service and examples at Wolftrap, as well as explain and answer questions about the screening processes for part-time school-based and full-time Level IV services. The meeting is open to all K-6 parents.

Multiple criteria are reviewed to determine eligibility for all FCPS advanced academic services. The local school committee determines student eligibility for part-time school-based services. The countywide central selection committee determines eligibility for full-time AAP Level IV placement.

See the full [Fall AAP Newsletter](#) on pages 7 and 8 of this newsletter.



Faculty (specialists)

ART: Bethany Mallino

PE: Devon Dowell, Jason Polaha

LIBRARY: Karen DeHoratiis

MUSIC: Carolyn Barker, Sarah Chambers

BAND: Joseph McClure, Erika Hirt

STRINGS: Jill Wisinski

CHINESE: EunKyoung Kwon, Cathy Lee

Staff Birthdays

Sept. 8: Ellen Carbalal

Sept. 12: Stephanie Burdett

Sept. 12: Samantha Williams

Sept. 13: Kwadwo Adjapong

Sept. 14: Shannon Stubbs

Sept. 16: Devon Dowell

Sept. 21: Scott Rosenfeld

Sept. 23: Chris Bussanich

Sept. 28: Maggie Grove

Sept. 29: Hope Bolyard

Meet our new teachers!

The Wolftrap Connection will have full profiles of new teachers and staff in this issue and the next.

Stephanie Case, Third Grade Teacher



Ms. Case was born and raised in Springfield, Va., and attended grade school in Fairfax County. She received both her Bachelor's in Psychology and her Master's in Teaching from the University of Virginia. She has taught fifth grade for the past three years in Loudoun County and will be teaching third grade this year at Wolftrap. Ms. Case is excited to foster new relationships in the Wolfie family and be part of a wonderful community of learners!

Jeremy Cohen, Second Grade Teacher



Mr. Cohen grew up in South Windsor, Ct. After graduating from the University of Richmond with a degree in Journalism and Political Science, he received a Master's in Sports Leadership from VCU. For the next 6 years, he worked in public relations in the athletic department at Stony Brook University in New York. He then decided he wanted to become a teacher and entered the Career Switchers program at American University, where he received his K-6 teaching license and a Master's in Elementary Education. After graduating from American, he taught 2nd grade at Herndon Elementary for three years. He is thrilled to be continuing his career at Wolftrap and couldn't be more excited to join such a supportive and caring community.

Christine Fraser, Special Education Teacher



Ms. Fraser recently graduated from George Mason University with a Master of Special Education and attended Virginia Commonwealth University for her undergraduate degree in General Science. Before joining the Wolftrap team, she worked as an instructional assistant for four years in various special education classrooms in Fairfax County. She looks forward to collaborating with her team, experiencing what the STEAM lab has to offer, and providing a welcoming space for students to learn and expand their thinking. Outside of school she has an amazing 3 ½ year old daughter named Madeline who fills her heart with joy every day. She is excited to begin the 2017-2018 school year!

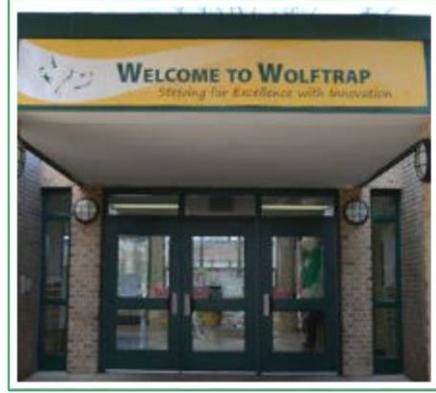
Cara Iselin, Special Education Teacher



This will be Ms. Iselin's 4th year teaching special education in Fairfax County. She previously taught 6th grade special education science at Glasgow Middle School. She is truly excited to be teaching at an elementary school this year and she feels fortunate to be welcomed by a community full of amazing and committed staff, students, and parents. She looks forward to having a great first year at Wolftrap ES!

PTA Happenings

Wolftrap Under the Stars: Our annual [welcome-back event](#) will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 8 (not the 15th, as printed in error in a classroom flyer) behind the school or in the gym if it's raining. We'll have music, food and fun!



Earn money for Wolftrap: Link your Giant, Harris Teeter or Silver Diner cards to Wolftrap to earn money for the school without paying an extra dime of your own. We also collect Box Tops for Education and Kellogg's Family Rewards. See the [Education Rebates](#) page.

Walking Wednesday: Now on a biweekly basis – walk or bike to school and earn points for your grade. Learn more about walking or biking to Wolftrap on the [Safe Routes to School](#) page.

Reflections: The annual student arts program's 2017-18 theme is "Within Reach," and categories include visual arts, film, music, literature, photography, and dance. Students may spend as little or as much time on it as they want. **Deadline is Oct. 16th.** See highlights from last year and learn more about the contest on the [Reflections](#) page.

Watch D.O.G.S.: Spend a day at Wolftrap as a positive male role model. Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) is open to fathers, grandfathers, uncles and other father figures. Learn more [on our site](#) and come to a pizza party Sept. 19th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Spirit Wear: We have some snazzy new items available in this year's Spirit Wear offering, which runs through the month of September. Get T-shirts, activewear, outerwear, caps, flannel pants, umbrellas and more. Check out the [Spirit Wear page](#) for ordering info.

Scouting: Interested in joining Boy Scouts? Come to an informational meeting at the Wolftrap Elementary School Playground on Sunday September 10, 2017 from 4:00-5:30 pm (raindate is September 17). For more information, contact Keith Robinson at Krobinson098@gmail.com and check out the flyer [here](#).

Upcoming Events

September 6
Walking Wednesday

September 7
Back to School Night, 6 p.m.

September 8
Wolftrap Under the Stars, 6 p.m.

September 14
First PTA meeting, 8:45 p.m.

September 15
PTA Welcome Coffee, 9 a.m.

Our calendar is on Google. To add to your Google Calendar, click the + sign at the bottom of the calendar frame [here](#).

About This Publication

The Wolftrap Connection is jointly produced by the Wolftrap Elementary PTA and the Wolftrap faculty/staff. Send any concerns, questions, or ideas about the newsletter to the [Communications Team](#).

Past issues will be archived on the Wolftrap ES site.

Next issue: September 18

ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (AAP) FALL NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year to all! I'm thrilled to be back working with the amazing students and teachers and parents at Wolftrap as the Advanced Academic Resource Teacher (AART). This newsletter describes the services provided at Wolftrap and the screening process for those who are interested in having student screened for additional services. I will be going over this information at a **parent information meeting on Wednesday, September 27th from 5:30-6:30, in the Wolftrap library.** I will provide information about levels of service and examples at Wolftrap, as well as explain and answer questions about the screening processes for part-time school-based and full-time Level IV services. The meeting is open to all K-6 parents. I can also be reached at Wolftrap via email or phone. Thank you so much, and I'm looking forward to an incredible year!

Dr. Maggie Grove
703.319.7300 X7374
mcgrove@fcps.edu

CONTINUUM OF SERVICES: Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers a continuum of advanced academic services for all students in grades K-8. Learning experiences are designed to develop higher-level thinking through enrichment, acceleration, and extension of the Program of Studies (POS). Teachers, administrators, and Advanced Academic Resource Teachers (AARTs) work together to provide the following levels of services:

- **Critical and Creative Thinking Lessons, Grades K-6 (Level I)**

The first level is provided to all students in kindergarten through grade six and consists of model lessons that are designed to teach critical and creative thinking skills. The lessons are modeled in all classrooms by AARTs and the thinking strategies are then used throughout the year by classroom and other teachers who work with students. Student responses to these lessons are used as part of the identification process for Levels II-IV. Parents may also practice these strategies during family conversations and activities. A description of the nine critical and creative thinking strategies can be found at <https://www.fcps.edu/academics/elementary-school-academics-k-6/advanced-academics/critical-and-creative-thinking>

- **Differentiated Lessons in Areas of Academic Strength, Grades K-6 (Level II)**

The AART collaborates with classroom teachers to provide additional challenges through lessons and resources that extend and enrich the POS. Screening for this level of service is ongoing throughout the school year. The Young Scholars Model begins at this level and is designed to find and nurture advanced academic potential in students from historically underrepresented populations.

- **Part-Time Advanced Academic Programs, Grades 3-6 (Level III)**

Students identified by a local school screening committee for Level III part-time advanced academic services are challenged through models and strategies designed to extend and enrich the POS in the four core subject areas. Screening for this level of service is ongoing throughout the school year.

- **Full-Time Advanced Academic Programs, Grades 3-8 (Level IV)**

Students found eligible for placement in full-time Level IV Advanced Academic Programs through a central selection process receive a highly challenging instructional program in the four core subject areas.

Screening for this level of service occurs in the fall for students who are new to FCPS and in the spring for all other students. **The referral deadline is October 5th, 2017, for students who are new to FCPS and January 12, 2018, for spring screening.** Additional information is available in the Parent Information Packet published on the AAP website: <https://www.fcps.edu/registration/advanced-academics-identification-and-placement/elementary-school>

- **International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IBMYP): Selected Schools, Grades 6-10**

The IBMYP is designed for students ages 11-16. The program helps students develop the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and skills necessary to participate actively and responsibly in a changing world. The curriculum is supported by the fundamental concepts of intercultural awareness, holistic learning, and communication.

- **Honors, Grades 7-8** Advanced and/or accelerated classes are available for students in grades 7-8 through an open enrollment process. Students receive instruction that is differentiated for advanced learners in the four core subjects in one or more areas of academic strength or interest.

SCREENING: Multiple criteria are reviewed to determine eligibility for all FCPS advanced academic services. The local school committee determines student eligibility for part-time school-based services. The countywide central selection committee determines eligibility for full-time AAP Level IV placement.

TESTING: In the spring, the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT) is administered to all FCPS first grade students. In the fall, the CogAT-Custom Form is administered to all FCPS second grade students. During the fall testing cycle, the NNAT and/or Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) may be administered to students in grades 3-6 who do not have an ability test score. A second grade screening pool is established using the test results from first and second grade testing. Students in the second grade pool are automatically screened for full-time AAP Level IV placement. Parents or guardians may exercise a one-time retest option during the fall testing cycle.

REFERRALS FOR FULL-TIME AAP LEVEL IV (Grades 2-7): Parents or guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the full-time AAP Level IV screening process by completing and submitting an [Advanced Academic Programs Level IV Referral Form to the AART \(Dr. Grove\) no later than January 12, 2018](#). No late referrals will be accepted. Second grade students **not** in the pool and **all** students in grades 3-6 are screened only by referral. Forms are available on the AAP website <https://www.fcps.edu/registration/advanced-academics-identification-and-placement/elementary-school> or from Dr. Grove. Parents or guardians of students who are in the second grade pool will be notified by the school. Students who are not in the second grade pool will not receive notification. The benchmark score used to create the second grade pool will be published on the AAP website mid-January.

Please do not wait for test scores before submitting a referral for your student in grades 2-6 as there will be no referrals for Level IV screening accepted past the deadline of January 12, 2018. If you are waiting for test scores and would like your student screened for Level IV please submit the referral by the published deadline (even if you have not received the test scores for your student).