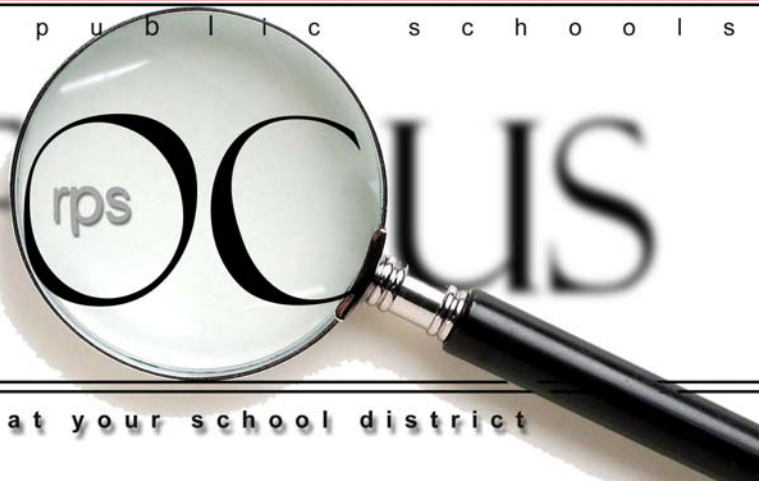


IN FOCUS



A closer look at your school district

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Done-in-a-Day projects held at Ginter Park & Chimborazo

Nearly 100 students enrolled in the Virginia Commonwealth University Health Science and Health Careers Pipeline Program spent a sweltering summer day making interior and exterior improvements to Ginter Park and Chimborazo elementary schools.



At Ginter Park, 50 of the participants painted an exterior wall, weeded existing flower beds (photo above), constructed new beds and also stenciled and painted the school's playground and sidewalks, including adding "Gator tracks" to direct students from buses and city sidewalks to the school.

SEE PAGE 2

SPOTLIGHT

VCU students get it 'Done-in-a-Day'

FROM PAGE 1

"The students were a joy to work with and remarkably, the heat did not seem to affect them one bit," said Ginter Park principal Indira Williams. "However, when the ice cream truck rolled down North Avenue, several of the students moved swiftly towards it with great delight."

At Chimborazo, the VCU student volunteers completed inside and outside tasks. A storm the previous night no doubt left a number of twigs, branches and trash that needed to be picked up and removed from the grounds. Students also edged flower beds and pulled weeds from cracks in the sidewalk.

Inside, the students organized the school's clothing closet and cleaned walls, desks and floors.



Old Instruments for Young Hands Concert is Aug. 19 at Holton

The Richmond Concert Band will present its annual Old Instruments for Young Hands Concert August 19 at 6 p.m at Holton Elementary School, 1600 W. Laburnum Ave.

The performance is free, but concert-goers are encouraged to donate instruments that can be used by the city school district's music education program. Started in 2000, the Old Instruments for Young Hands program has donated several hundred instruments to the district's music program, according to Mark Poland, music director for the Richmond Concert Band.

Several Richmond City students, staff and instrumental music teachers will perform with the Richmond Concert Band. This year's theme is "Meet the Instruments." For more information, contact Mark Poland at 737-3767 or Holton principal David Hudson at 228-5310.



You should know that ...

...the Richmond Public Schools Summer Technology Conference attracted more than 40 Information Technology (IT) professionals from four Central Virginia school districts for a daylong session that explored the “best practices” for information technology operations. Dr. Alissa Johnson, Deputy Chief Information Officer for the Executive Office of the President of the United States, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Johnson encouraged conference attendees to be creative in the the face of budget restraints by working collaboratively to find cost efficiencies and by embracing new, non-traditional platforms to reach targeted audiences.

“Now, more than ever, we have to think creatively and out of the box as we deal with decreasing budgets and increasing demands,” said Kavansa Gardner, Director of Information Technology and Communication Services for Richmond Public Schools and conference organizer. “We all share the same challenges and taking a regional approach to address and discuss these shared issues makes good sense.”

During the daylong conference, held at Henderson Middle School, IT experts discussed topics ranging from increasing infrastructure to handle growing online testing demands to the benefits of cloud technology to “green” applications.



More than 40 IT specialists attended the RPS Summer Technology Conference held recently at Henderson Middle School.

Information for **In Focus** should be emailed to: sbolton@richmond.k12.va.us.