

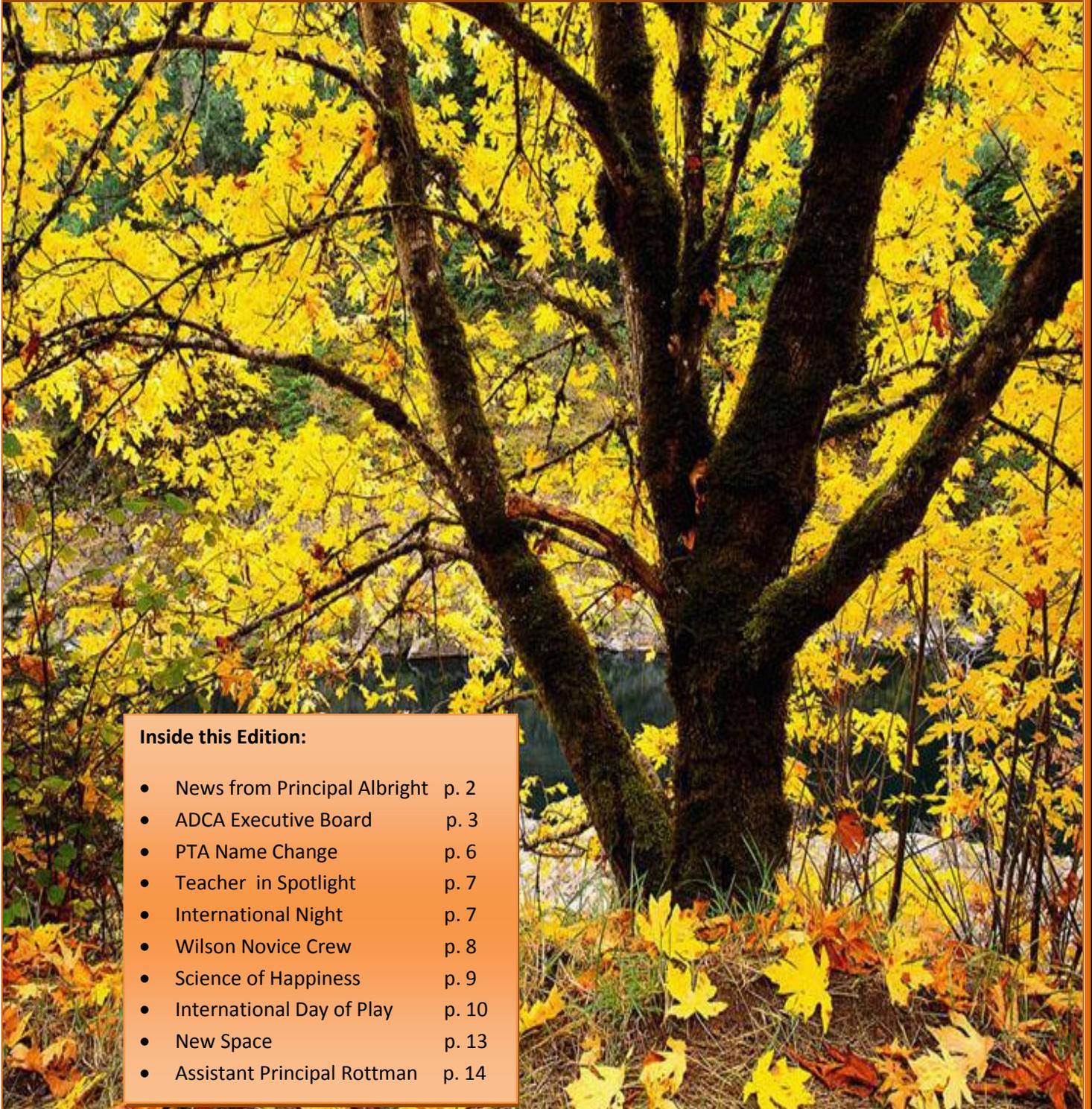
Alice Deal Community Association Newsletter

Fall 2014

3815 Fort Drive NW Washington DC 20016

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<http://alicedeal.org>



Inside this Edition:

- News from Principal Albright p. 2
- ADCA Executive Board p. 3
- PTA Name Change p. 6
- Teacher in Spotlight p. 7
- International Night p. 7
- Wilson Novice Crew p. 8
- Science of Happiness p. 9
- International Day of Play p. 10
- New Space p. 13
- Assistant Principal Rottman p. 14

News from the Principal Albright

This has been a very exciting year so far at Alice Deal– new faces in school, new programs and activities, and new academic challenges. Our great start to the year has put us in a good position for additional changes: our new building is being delivered in January and DC’s new assessment system rolls out in the Spring.



Your students’ experience of the IB Middle Years Program has taken a big step up with a targeted focus on assessment practices. We are

shifting from a sole focus on assessment *of* learning to include assessment *for* learning. This means more attention to feedback, student understanding of their progress, and the use of rubrics to clarify what is needed to grow. Our 6th graders have been working very hard on this in all of their classes; our 7th and 8th graders are using the rubrics in preparation for use next year across the board. So far we have learned much about what works, what needs to be tweaked or changed, and what we need to do for second advisory, second semester, and next year!

Another new initiative, funded by a grant from the Chancellor’s office, is centered on student satisfaction. Our goal is for us to not only know each other better through activities other than schoolwork. Vikings have journeyed to

“adventure” parks, have seen dance and musical performances, and are putting the final touches on new Deal t-shirts. Family events have included an 8th grade barbeque and 6th grade team excursions to Dave and Busters. Don’t worry if you haven’t participated yet; there are many more to go. I hope to see you at some of these.

Our renovated Reno building and our new space are coming along nicely (see accompanying article) and we expect to be fully moved in by January 5. Our teachers have been planning how to make this move as seamless as possible for those students who move; these plans will be shared with the community as we firm up the specifics. I appreciate the patience of students, families, and teachers over the last few months.

Finally, the teachers and your students have been working diligently to prepare for the end of the year PARRC assessments. Let us know if you have any questions about the process or expectations. We are confident that our Vikings will be able to demonstrate what they know and have learned as successfully on this new test as on the previous one.

I look forward to seeing many of you over the next few weeks at our many Deal events – concerts, plays, and family fun events– but don’t forget that you can always contact me if you have a question or a concern. Take care.

Save the date for [Ed FEST](#), DC's citywide education fair, on Saturday, November 22 from 11:00am to 3:00pm at the DC Armory. Explore more than 150 DCPS & public charter school options (PK3-12) for your child, and learn about [My School DC](#) – the city's common lottery. Admission is free.

Meet the ADCA Executive Board and LSAT Representatives 2014-2015

President

Cathy House (incumbent): I am and have been for 10 years, an Adjunct Professor at Howard University and Strayer University On-Line School of Business. In addition, I am an entrepreneur and business consultant.



I am the parent of one current Deal student, (Candace House) rising to the 7th grade next year. I have two older children who were promoted from Deal, Mica House, 2013 and Joshua House, 2012. Both are excelling in High School.

It was my honor to serve as Co-President the last school year along with Addy Schmitt. We implemented the theme of "Building

Vice President of Events

Brooke Evans: Originally from San Diego, our family moved to DC in Sept. of 2012. I have a rising 7th grader at Deal Middle School, a rising 5th grader at Lafayette Elementary and an incoming preschooler at Takoma Education Campus. We have been thrilled to be a part of the Deal community, and couldn't have asked for a better fit for our family.

Community", continued Movie Night, added a DC United Event and expanded the Auction and party theme of an inclusive community.

One of my passions is to help expand the World Language Travel Program. Since I became the Co-PTA President three years ago, this program has grown from a small number of participating students to 195 traveling students, teachers, administrators and a few parent, too. Traveling to another country can be a life changing experience for some students. It exposes them to the global world we live in today. ADCA will vigorously fundraise to support this World Language Travel program- a Deal success story.

Although the majority of the Executive Board stepped down from their duties since their child was promoted to high school, I am still very excited to carry on the business of the ADCA. What is achieved at Deal is not just due to the executive committee. The many volunteers of the Alice Deal Community make things happen here! I am excited to continue for a *fourth year*, leading Deal to another highly successful school year. Thank you for allowing me to serve you again!

This past year, I helped with securing donations for the Deal auction, worked on sets and costumes for the musical performance, and co-chaired the auction gala party at Lafayette. At our previous school in San Diego, I founded and chaired the [SoNo Park Holiday Fest](#). This event has grown to include over 20,000 participants for a day filled with chili, beer, music and lots of fun all in the name of fundraising for arts and music. At McKinley Elementary, I also designed and maintained our website.

Outside of volunteering, I do a bit of interior design work, and I love seeking out art and all things creative in our city. I look forward to the coming year.

Vice President of Technology

Kindra Tully: I am the mother of a current 7th grader. While a Chinese major in school, I have worked in the IT department at Georgetown University for over ten years. Since taking this role in 2011, my focus has been managing the Deal database and producing the directory. I love to cook and am always up for contributing to an auction item!

Vice President of Speakers for ADCA Meetings

Erica Woods: My name is Erica Woods, and I have two children in DC public schools. My son Excel is currently a 7th grader at Deal and my daughter Truth is in the 3rd grade at Shepherd. I appreciate the many opportunities my son has as a Deal student and know that the ADCA is an important part of the school's success. I have served as a volunteer for ADCA events, but I am eager to contribute more.

A native of Pittsburgh, PA, I have lived in Washington with my husband Gemal since 2001. I am motivated by opportunities to learn and to help solve problems, and have spent my career in the nonprofit sector.

The VP of Speakers for ADCA Meetings is responsible for securing speakers to address issues facing our students and parents. In my professional life, I work in communications and have experience coordinating speakers for various events—from researching potential speakers and soliciting their participation, to advising and coaching them to sharpen their presentations. I am delighted to bring my experience to bear in service to our school community and to contribute to the broader efforts of the ADCA Board.

Vice President of Alumni Database Creation

Jeanie Carter: I am a native Washingtonian. I have 30+ year of service in the District Government. I have been a Registered Nurse for 29 years. I helped in the Office of the Secretary of the Mattaponi ES's PTO for two years. I have always been an active participant of the ADCA/PTO of the school my son attends. I have a niece and nephew who are proud graduates of Alice Deal Middle School. My goal is to establish a data base of Alice Deal graduates to make certain the Deal Family can reconnect with each other and reconnect with their middle school alma mater.

Vice President of Community Building

Dennis Smyth: I was born and raised in Wantagh, New York. I have a B.S. degree in Business Administration from the State University of New York at Albany (1978) and an MBA in Finance from Fordham University (1981). During my 35-year career in private sector I worked as: a Credit Risk Analyst for seven years at Merrill Lynch in New York and London; a Management Consultant for 15 years at PricewaterhouseCoopers and IBM, mostly for the U.S. Agency for International Development in developing countries throughout Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia; had a 22 year involvement with Habitat for Humanity of Washington, D.C. as a long-term volunteer, board member, and senior staff member.

I am a proud parent of a Lafayette Elementary School 2nd grader and an Alice Deal Middle School 7th grader. I am a great believer in the power and value of a well-run and parent-involved community-based school. Deal's teaching and administrative staff continue to amaze me. Because of this, I chose to become more involved with Deal and its community of parents, teachers, and students. I hope the foster and maintain a strong sense of community for all involved in Deal Middle School.

I am 57 years old, married to Dr. Eileen S. Moore, and reside at 5912 32nd Street NW.

Recording Secretary

Lori A. Jackson: I am Lori Jackson and I currently work as the executive manager for the Alexander and Margaret Stewart Trust. The Stewart Trust is a foundation in Washington DC which allocates \$5 million per year toward pediatric health and cancer care for low-income residents of DC and cancer research nationally. I manage the foundation's grant making, and research programs and the day-to-day operations. Having always worked in philanthropy, I was first with the law firm Hale and Dorr in Boston, then with Mellon Financial. When I moved to Washington, DC in 2002, I served as the executive director of the Abramson Foundation which provides college scholarships to DCPS graduates.

I have three children, one who has started 6th grade at Deal Middle School this year. My other two children, ages 9 and 6 attend DC Bilingual Public Charter School in Columbia Heights. I am looking forward to becoming part of the Deal community. Ever since my children were school-aged at DC Bilingual, I have been part of the parent leadership and committees to support the school and its teachers. At DC Bilingual, I was co-president of the parent group for 3 years. I also spearheaded the room parent program, and currently manage teacher appreciation week. I live in Shepherd Park my husband and three children.

Corresponding Secretary

Jenny Murray: I have an incoming 6th grader at Deal, and a rising 5th grader at Lafayette. I have heard so many great things about Deal and am very excited to be part of the Deal community. Before having children I worked in communications at the EPA, and now work part-

time as an interior decorator. At Lafayette, I served on the HSA board initially on the Hospitality Committee, then as Communications Chair for 2 years, and then as co-president for 2 years. I've managed the Lafayette website for the past couple of years, including a re-design in the last year. As Communications Chair and as co-president, I sent out school-wide emails using Constant Contact. I've also been involved at the school through volunteering for the Auction and Spring Fair, being a room parent, going on field trips (when my kids will let me), and helping with the school store. I look forward to being an active part of the Deal community.

Treasurer

Dan Rosenthal: I am the Chief Financial Officer of Fonality, Inc., which makes phone systems for small and medium-sized businesses. I served as the Treasurer of the Janney Elementary PTA for three years, and am looking forward to working with the ADCA in the same capacity. My wife and I, Laurie Ann, live in AU park with our four children, who are now at three different DCPS schools - one at Deal, two at Janney and one at The School without Walls.

Teacher Representative

Colleen Smith: This is my second year at Deal, my 22nd in education. I have taught (6th through 12th grade) all over the nation (in two other IB schools) and worked as an educational consultant overseas. I believe in teaching the whole child. I look forward to working closely with the ADCA next year; working together to support our Deal learners.

Reminder:

Career Day is November 4, 2014

LSAT Representatives

Karen Harris: I am the mother of an 8th grader and 5th grader, and therefore 3 years into a 6 year run as a Deal parent. I chose the LSAT position because I believe it is the best way for me to get involved in planning for the future of Deal Middle School. In the past, I have served as co-President of the Janney PTA and as a member of the Janney LSAT and SIT (during their major construction project in 2010-2012). These rolls have given me firsthand knowledge of the DCPS and PTA budgeting and strategic planning processes, as well as the planning process for facilities additions and upgrades. I would like to use this experience to benefit the Deal community as the school embarks on the Reno School addition project and potential increases in enrollment. I believe strongly in the benefits of the IB curriculum, arts in schools and support for school staff and professional development.

Professionally, I have worked as an attorney, policy consultant and, most recently, as an arts educator working with grades PK-5 in DC and Virginia. This last role has given me insights into the rewards and challenges of working with

children as well as a deep respect for the learning process.

Heather Edelman: As an LSAT Representative I will support the good work of the Deal teachers, administrators and staff and will engage in conversations about how to make Deal an even better environment for all students. In addition to being the parent of an 8th grader, I bring the following relevant experiences:

- served as a member of a School Improvement Team, helping steer plans for the renovation of a DCPS elementary school
- served as PTA vice president of fundraising and vice president of communications at two DCPS elementary schools
- elected to the Local School Council, the advisory group that approved the budget and evaluated the principal at a Chicago public school
- covered education issues for a Bay Area newspaper.

I have a great appreciation for the important work Deal is doing educating so many of our city's middle school students, and I am honored to represent Deal parents on the LSAT for the 2014-15 school year.

THE PTA HAS CHANGED ITS NAME!

We'd like to let you know that at the last PTA general meeting on October 8, 2014, the Deal PTA membership voted to adopt updated bylaws. An important element of the new bylaws is that **the PTA will now be called the Alice Deal Community Association or ADCA.**

The PTA board proposed to change the name and not be part of the national Parent Teacher Association (PTA) in order to save on the annual fees we incurred for this membership.

We felt this money would be better spent within the Deal community!

Future emails and other communications will now come from the ADCA - please make sure to add us to your contacts so that these school emails won't end up in your spam folder.

If you have any questions, please contact **Cathy House**, ADCA President.

Thank you,
Alice Deal Community Association -ADCA

Teacher in the Spotlight

Susie Kim is new to the Deal art department. She teaches 8th grade.

Before Ms. Kim came to Deal, she attended Virginia Community College in Richmond and earned her B.A. in Fine Arts Education. She chose Alice Deal because of its wonderful atmosphere, its learning philosophy, and its welcoming staff. Ms. Kim felt that she fit in at Deal and no other school gave her this warm message.

Ms. Kim says that in addition to wanting to join the Deal team for its superior academics and IB course of study, “DC seemed like the best place because not only is it a city, but also because the arts are literally embedded throughout the city. All the Smithsonian Institution museums provide great resources for learning.”

Susie Kim has always wanted to be a teacher. She says “I come from a large supporting family, so helping out is in my blood. I knew I wanted to be a teacher since I was 9 years old. Nothing makes me happier than being in the classroom!”

When Ms. Kim is not in school, she loves to be with her friends, try new food, and go to concerts and sporting events. She is originally from Fairfax County.

Sign Up for Parent-Teacher Conferences:

The first round of Parent-Teacher conferences will take place on Monday, November 10th from 12:00 - 7:00 pm. Conferences with team teachers are by-appointment-only. Beginning Monday, October 27th, families can visit http://ptcfast.com/schools/Alice_Deal_Middle_School to sign up for appointments.

Alice Deal International Night Wednesday November 19th, 6:30-8:30pm



你好! **Ciao!**

Guten Tag! Hola!

Dzien dobry!

Bonjour! 안녕!

Mark your calendars - International Night is coming up on November 19th! You can sample delicious foods from around the globe with the rest of the Deal community and to donate funds for the ADCA International Trip scholarships.

We need your help make it a success!

Sign up TODAY using the link below to bring a dish to share – your favorite dish from any region of the world, including family favorites from the USA.

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0949ACAE2EA64-alice

OR you can volunteer to be a Table Chair and help coordinate and decorate the table for each region. We still need more chairs for Europe, Africa/Middle East, Latin America and the US Regional tables. For further details contact International Night Co-Chairs: Neha Shah shahn100@yahoo.com and Silvia Dinale pesce2000e1@yahoo.com

At International Night foreign language groups will be showcasing their past trips and any donations you generously offer will go toward the ADCA’s international trip scholarships that fund students’ travel to China, France and Latin America. Last year, thanks to the generosity of the Deal community, the ADCA was able to help 19 students afford this life changing experience!

Deal Vikings Pull for Wilson High School Novice Crew Teams!

By Maria Emanuel

Congratulations to the 8th Grade Vikings who completed the Wilson High School Learn to Row Program! Beginner rowers spent two weeks at the Thompson Boathouse Center on the Georgetown Waterfront, learning boat handling, safety, and the basics of rowing strokes. More than 75 students from feeder schools to Wilson participated in the Learn to Row program last month. The majority of new rowers are Deal 8th grade students, along with 9th graders (Deal alumni). Beginner rowers have been invited to participate in the Novice Fall program, from October 6 thru November 2. These rowers will continue to ramp up their skills and compete in their first race on November 2 at the Head of the Occoquan Regatta. To learn more about the upcoming regatta or about Wilson Crew, visit www.wilsoncrew.org. (Go Viking-Tigers!)

Boys Wilson Novice Crew



Girls Wilson Novice Crew



Members of the teams include:

Boys - Wilson Novice Crew Team			
Last Name	First Name	Grade	School
Elliot	Gabe	9	Wilson
Emanuel	Josh	9	Wilson
Abera	Tsega	9	Wilson
Brookins	Antonio	9	Wilson
Chineme	Daniel	8	Deal
Costello	Timothy	8	Deal
Gionis	Kerry	8	Deal
Gwadz	Dean	8	Deal
Hagerty	Rory	8	Deal
Harris	Alex	9	Wilson
Hedlund	Jamie	8	Deal
Kendrick	Steven	9	Wilson
Kiridena	Dasarath Ashan	8	Deal
Klein	Ethan	8	Deal
Lordan	Zach	8	Deal
Manning	Christopher	9	Wilson
McCargo	John	9	Wilson
Mehring	Eli	9	Wilson
Murrell	Sebastian	8	Deal
Murrell	Luke	8	Deal
Pehrson	Nick	9	Wilson
Rodriguez	Desmond	8	Deal
Schulz	Theo	8	Deal

Boys - Wilson Novice Crew Team continues			
Last Name	First Name	Grade	School
Snow	Brandon	9	Wilson
Wright	William	8	Deal

Girls- Wilson Novice Crew Team			
Last Name	First Name	Grade	School
Bangura	Nadia	9	Wilson
Breslow	Danielle	9	Wilson
Carpenter	Zarina	9	Wilson
Colleye	Emily	9	Wilson
Crowther- Diaz	Elisha	9	Wilson
Maury	Zoe	9	Wilson
Medina	Claire	9	Walls
Messina- Fitzgerald	Clare	9	Wilson
Padilla	Jessica	9	Wilson
Pansegrouw	Eliana	9	Wilson
Salzman	Tait	8	Deal
Squitieri	Gabby	9	Wilson
Weich	Sophie	9	Wilson
Wilson	Anna	9	Wilson
Woods	Mikaela	9	Wilson
Woscoboinik	Georgia	9	Wilson

The Science of Happiness

This advisory Deal is happy to give students the opportunity to experience an online college class entitled “The Science of Happiness”. This course is free and is provided by the University of California at Berkley. Designed to take students through happiness practices, the program also documents the scientific research behind happiness. Since I was a Psychology major in college, I had previous knowledge of

the topic and I am delighted to share my expertise with the students.

I do not consider myself the instructor of the course, but more as a guide. My role is not only to support and to help explain some of the material that students are tackling, but to also step back and allow them to explore the information presented on their own.

They are responsible for following the modules, including videos, articles, happiness practices, and assessments.

The students have done a phenomenal job with keeping up with the course work.

By Michael Martis



Some of the “happy” students

Deal has fun at International Day of Play

On Saturday, October 11, dozens of students' hard work creating games and costumes and--yes!--even a working vending machine out of simply cardboard paid off, when we opened our doors for people to come and enjoy themselves. We had a putt-putt course, a basketball hoop, a bowling alley, a claw machine that gave fortunes, and cardboard characters walking around and greeting guests. As part of Caine's Arcade's Global Cardboard Challenge, students met once a week for a month to design, create,

and practice with their cardboard creations. Thank you to all who participated and who came out!

Mr. Assael, Ms. Dziato, and Mr. Gueltig

Holiday Greens Sale

December 6-7, 2014

December 13-14, 2014

Playing pictures!





New Spaces at Deal By Principal Albright

As we near the completion of the renovation of the historic Reno building and our new classroom addition, the pace of work has picked up. Thursday morning, crews began working on completing a new water pipe for the building, one of the last hurdles to go. In the buildings themselves, nearly 80 workers are creating what will surely be one of the most beautiful academic spaces in a city full of them.

The historic Reno building will house a new art classroom, several language classes, and a health room. A large brightly lit space will be the centerpiece of the building. Historic displays, developed by the Tenleytown Historical Society, will provide context for this important landmark in the community.

The new building, connected to both levels of the gym wing and the rear of the Reno building, will be completed at the same time and will serve as the home of two teams. A seventh grade

team will be on the first level – even with the first floor of the main building. There will be a broad open space in the middle of this floor, a new art gallery, and two office spaces. At the lower level, one of our eighth grade teams will find their space. At the far end of the building there will be a new multipurpose room, with sufficient capacity for student team meetings, professional development sessions, or community groups.

Native plants will surround the building. To the rear, near the multipurpose room, an area will be landscaped as an external classroom. At the front of the new building and entering off of the multipurpose room, a handful of parking spaces surround a small garden.

The new addition, the Reno renovation, and our beautiful main building are great spaces in which to keep the Deal spirit going. We will host an open house in spring so that you can get a chance to see your new community space and share in that spirit.

Deal Auction 2015: The Celebration of Rock n' Roll

Mark your calendars! The Alice Deal Auction, *The Celebration of Rock n' Roll*, will be held on Saturday, **February 7, 2015**. The Auction money raised will be used to support student community service activities, fund arts, music and athletics programs, and continue to assist in teacher training.

You can [donate](#) or become an [Auction sponsor](#). If you have questions, please send an email to alicedealauction@gmail.com

Deal Families,

This year, I have the honor of following a wonderful group of students up to the 8th grade. I was impressed every day by this class as 7th graders. This trend certainly continues in their 8th grade year as they take leadership positions on the student council, in clubs, on teams, and in their classrooms. There is no doubt these brilliant young leaders will continue to impress those they work with in high school, college, and their careers.

In preparation for this bright future, there will be a lot to do to wrap up middle school on a high note. In addition to taking on additional responsibilities in the school and piling on even more rigorous academic work, our 8th graders need to start planning for high school. This is an exciting process that includes visits, applications, community service, letters of recommendation, and, eventually, a tough decision. Know that your teachers and 8th grade

team are excited to help, but you should start this process as early as possible.

With the year off to a strong start, we have plenty more to look forward to as the year continues. Please help your child find a balance between their extracurricular activities and their responsibilities and remember to pause occasionally to appreciate the impressive young adult your student has become. It is an honor to work with such a remarkable team of professionals to help to educate this inspiring group of students. Thank you for your continued support as families of the school, our team, and your students. As I say in every weekly bulletin, please don't hesitate to reach out with compliments, comments, or questions to my email (Patrick.Rottman@dc.gov) or cell phone (202.577.1677).

Take care,

Patrick Rottman
8th Grade Assistant Principal

Support the Alice Deal Community Association!

A \$150 contribution is the suggested annual donation amount per family. However, every contribution counts, and we urge you to give what you can. Your support makes our children's middle school experience unforgettable.

Please contribute as generously as you can - your support means a great Deal!!

A huge thank you to our **Full and Supporting Sponsors** — community partners committed to excellence in D.C. public education.

To become a Promotional Sponsor or for any questions on sponsorship, contact Mindy Schuster at 202-870-8830 or mindyschuster@verizon.net.

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