

## SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOLS

### Beauvoir School

School started and is rolling at Beauvoir School. Open House on Tuesday was a blast. Open House is when the kids get to meet the teachers and see their classrooms for the first time. It's also where we get to meet our classmates and see our friends after the long summer. In the courtyard there was a lot of food and things for sale like Beauvoir Bears and stuff like that. Open House is only two hours long.

### School DISPATCHES

The third-graders had a scavenger hunt in their classrooms to figure out where everything is and explore their new rooms. Our class pet, a water dragon named Venus, only eats worms. We wrote down the names of books we read this summer and when we're going to share them with our class.

The rest of the first week of school was great. We got to experience our new playground for the first time. We met our new Spanish teacher, who will stay with us for three months while our regular Spanish teacher is having her baby. We had half-days throughout the first week, so parents could have conferences with teachers.

The whole school is looking forward to a great year. The third grade is especially looking forward to the third-grade field trip in a couple of weeks, book fair and global studies. The third grade will be studying Egypt. It's fun to be the oldest in the school.

— **George Cook, third-grader**

### Blessed Sacrament School

Last week, students in first through eighth grades returned for the school year. The kindergartners began school one week later. Last week, every day was a half-day. Half-days are a good way to get used to being back in school. It was a time to see your old friends, meet the new students and learn the routine for your new grade.

This year in the fourth grade, there has been a major change with gym. The girls and boys will no longer go to gym together. This means that the boys will get to play more sports that boys want to play and the girls will get to play more sports that girls want to play.

In other news, the fifth-grade Web site has been updated. Mrs. Deleon, one of the fifth-grade teachers, started the site and still runs it. The Web site is helpful for students who forget their homework. Every day it has the homework and long-term assignments posted for all the subjects. For math, students can print their assignments.

— **Fred Kardos, fourth-grader, and Vincent Kardos, fifth-grader**

### Eaton Elementary

Our new principal's name is Mrs. Gartrell. She was born in the District. Her birthday is Jan. 30, and her oldest child was born on the same day.

She lives in Northwest just 12 minutes from our school. Three people live with her. She has two cats, Nala and Pixie. She has one granddaughter, who turned 7 on Sept. 10. Her favorite foods are chicken Caesar salad and lemon cooler cookies from Firehook Bakery.

Mrs. Gartrell went to Neval Thomas Elementary School in Northeast. When she was in the third grade, her favorite subjects were reading and art.

She still loves to read and draw. When she

## Local Life Scout repairs Park Police paddocks

By **LINDSAY TOTTY**  
Current Correspondent

**R**epairs on the two paddocks at the U.S. Park Police's Horse Mounted Patrol stables in Rock Creek Park were completed in August thanks to the efforts of 17-year-old Robert Reusch, a junior at St. John's College High School.

Reusch, a Life Scout in the Boy Scouts of America, took on the monthlong reparation task as his Eagle Service Leadership Project, enlisting the help of several volunteers, including other Boy Scouts, troop leaders and parents.

To gain Eagle status, a scout must have already earned his Life Scout rank and must "conceive, design and organize a project" for a nonprofit organization, according to Charles Reusch, Robert's father and an assistant scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 666.

Robert Reusch got the suggestion for the project from Dwight Madison, the supervisory ranger at Rock Creek Park, who had contacted Officer Barbara Blendy with the Horse Mounted Patrol and asked if there were any projects she could suggest. She came up with several ideas, and the repair work for the paddocks interested Reusch the most.

Robert said he originally planned to create a Web site for the National Park Service's junior ranger program but then decided repairing the paddocks "seemed a lot easier and more rewarding."



Bill Petros/The Current

**Robert Reusch, a St. John's junior, is aiming for Eagle Scout status.**

ure about 2 to 2.5 acres, have healthy grass, Blendy said.

TW Perry, a Maryland-based lumber company, donated most of the wood — about \$2,800 worth of oak boards. "It's a very generous gift," said Charles Reusch.

Joe Kisch, manager of the National Park Service maintenance department for Rock Creek Park, worked with maintenance staff members Benny Goodman and Mark Colburn to help arrange for the National Park Service to donate grass seed and spare wood to complete the project, according to Blendy.

was 15, she had a summer job at Eaton. Her job was to count textbooks.

Some of the books she read this summer were "Managing the Heart" and "Learning by Doing." This school year she would like to continue to build community so children can get the best education possible.

— **Sarah Pillard, Hannah Levine and Justice Smith, third-graders**

### Georgetown Day School

After a very long summer, it is good to get back to school. During the first week, feelings of excitement and disappointment whizzed through the hallways as students, teachers and administrators welcomed the new school year.

Teachers were busy explaining rules and procedures and helping people get settled. Almost everyone is excited to learn new things while still missing the summer and

freedom. Fourth-grader Andrew Baranovics was reminded of his summer as he played basketball outside. When asked what he liked most about being back at school, he said, "I like recess. It's really fun and a good way to get exercise."

— **Samantha Shapiro, third-grader**

work together in a combo class. Ideas included having the right to have fun and to learn, as well as the responsibility to practice self-control and help others.

Hyde has established three rules for the school year: Make responsible choices; treat others the way you want to be treated; and take pride in Hyde. We think these responsible rules help make a better school.

We learned how to play Smaug's Jewels, Elbow Tag and Octopus. A lot of people's favorite game at recess is kickball. We also have physical education with Mr. C and Mr. Martin.

— **Melissa Wood and Alexis Coates, fifth-graders**

As fifth- and fourth-graders in the combo class, we talked about rights and responsibilities. We brainstormed ways that we could



Bill Petros/The Current

**Part of Reusch's work involved putting in new wood — most donated from a Maryland lumber company.**

"We have hard-working horses, and we really try to have the best for them," he said, referring to Stonewall, Jack and Karat. "We're extremely thankful to the Reusches, the scouts that helped out, TW Perry, Dwight Madison, Joe Kisch, Mark Colburn and Benny Goodman."

Charles Reusch said his Eagle Scout-bound son must now obtain three more merit badges and complete the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook to submit with his application. A review board in February will evaluate his standing as a Boy Scout and determine whether to promote him to the Eagle Scout rank.

Robert Reusch said he is now in training as a junior probationary emergency medical technician.

According to the Boy Scouts of America Web site, only 5 percent of all Boy Scouts achieve the Eagle Scout rank. There have been at least 1.7 million Eagle Scouts since the rank was created in 1911.

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### Key Elementary

As the second week of school started, I began to wonder how many kids are happy to be back so I decided to make a tally. I

## DISPATCHES

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asked our teachers to take a survey of how many kids are glad and how many are sad. Out of 245 students, 215 are happy to be back and 30 are sad.

One thing I know will make people happy is our annual Back to School Picnic. It's a great chance to see all your friends, make new friends and meet all the new students. You can buy slices of pizza for \$1, and there is a delicious potluck table! Sometimes people who aren't even students at Key anymore come to the picnic.

— **Hannah Gehan, fifth-grader**

### Lafayette Elementary

One of the biggest changes at Lafayette this fall was the addition of two portable buildings to the intermediate blacktop. Each of these new buildings contains two rooms for a total of four new classrooms. We decided to find out how this new addition affects the school and its students and teachers. We interviewed the principal, Lynn Main.

Ms. Main told us that the construction began in mid-July and ended the day before school opened for students. To get the portables onto the blacktop, workers brought a giant crane and then strapped a belt around four individual room-size pieces. Once the pieces were secure, they lifted them over the trees. When the classrooms were set down, many people gathered to watch the placement of the portables.

Now with the portables in place, it is not so crowded inside the school, but intermediate students definitely have less play-ground space. This makes it harder for kids and teachers during recess, but all in all we like the portables so far.

We also interviewed third-grade teachers Ms. Lisa Jensen and Ms. Ashley Tepfer, whose classrooms are in the portables. They seem to really like the new classrooms. Students in them get their own little class sanctuary. They have more class space and cleaner classrooms. They even get perfect heating and cooling, which makes other children a little jealous.

There are downsides to being in the portables, however. They do not have water so kids have to walk into the school building to get drinks and use the restrooms. Also, the students report that the bell rings very loudly inside the classrooms. And after years of being in open space, some of the students miss it and feel a little lonely without having people walking by.

Still, even with the downsides, the teachers and students are excited about their future year in the new classrooms.

— **Emma Lalley and Sarah McCreary, sixth-graders**

### Mann Elementary

During the first two weeks of

school, we have been having lots of fun. We have two new students in our class and many others in the rest of the school. One of the important things about the newcomers is they speak all kinds of languages!

We also have a new math teacher, Mrs. Gerard. She taught us a game called "Squeeze the Number" at Morning Meeting. Perhaps the biggest change was on the blacktop. Now it has AstroTurf, and there is a real basketball court with space for hopscotch and four square. The students are excited to learn and play all year!

— **Beckett Dorros, Camila Giger-Naon and Adina Ramirez, third-graders**

### National Cathedral School

School opened last week with the annual opening service in the Washington National Cathedral followed by the traditional flag-raising ceremony on the newly restored East Terrace. After the ceremony, upper and middle school students participated in a service-learning project with the Anacostia Watershed Society. Approximately 500 students and teachers took buses to the Anacostia River and spent the rest of the day cleaning up the natural resource.

Classes resumed on Sept. 5 following an opening assembly for upper school students. This year, the upper school welcomed 18 new students, including an exchange student from Germany who joined the junior class.

— **Libby Ulman, 11th-grader**

### Stoddert Elementary

On the first day of school we guessed how many days we are going to stay in first grade. We thought about what we wanted to learn. I thought about wanting to do science. I want to learn to read. I can read about a half a page now.

I made friends with a new girl because she is nice. I got to know some new people in the class who weren't here last year. We learned

new names.

We do a lot of writing and work in Ms. Stevenson's class. We made a calendar. Our teacher reads stories after recess. She is reading "The Mouse and the Motorcycle." We are making a book, and we do our daily problem. Today the problem was that there were five hats in a pit and if Samk dug up one, how many were left? I could do that problem.

— **Akanksha Chauhan and Ethan Peterson, first-graders**

### Wilson High School

On Wednesday and Thursday last week, the Humanities Arts and Media and Wilson International Studies Program academies had their fall orientations for students and parents. The night started off with pizza, drinks and cookies, which were followed by a short presentation about the Flower Bulb and Global Goods fundraisers.

Mr. Shultz, one of our counselors, discussed the trips to Italy, Spain, Morocco and even the Galapagos Islands. Ms. Bean, also a counselor, presented lots of information about colleges to seniors, including scholarship opportunities and the oh-so-important application deadlines.

Auditions for the musical "Into the Woods" were last Friday and this Monday after school for all actors, singers and dancers. Students have been looking forward to doing this musical for a while now. Ms. Bronstein, the director, was very pleased with the turnout at last Thursday's lunch information session.

Meanwhile, students are beginning to prepare for Hispanic Heritage Month.

The school's Student Government Association has already had its first meeting. Members discussed the Club Fair, a dance in February (possibly for Valentine's Day) and community service opportunities such as a blood drive.

— **Natalie Plumb, 12th-grader**

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