2011–12 ANNUAL REPORT



SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES FOR KIDS



THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION FOR PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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Message from the President

MR. CHRIS SCHUSTER OF MINNIELAND ACADEMY

Excellent Schools Are Everyone's Business



I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve as the President of the SPARK Board of Directors for the 2012-13 school year. Minnieland Academy (Minnieland) has been a member of the Prince William County community since 1972. Our mission has and continues to be the education of children throughout our community. From our first center on Minnieville Road, we have grown to be the eighth largest provider of early care and educational services in North America. Despite this tremendous growth, we have remained focused on supporting the families in the communities we serve. This is especially the case here in Prince William County as it is our head-quarters and our home. Minnieland is a proud partner with Prince William County Public Schools

(PWCS) and is an ardent supporter of SPARK, the Education Foundation for PWCS. Minnieland shares SPARK's belief that it takes the combined efforts of the entire community to support student achievement.

Supported by donations from local businesses, SPARK has been able to raise more than half a million dollars in grant funding for Prince William County teachers and schools, as well as to School Division departments, staff, and offices through our "Innovative Grants" program. These funds allow schools and departments to implement programs that would not be possible otherwise. The Foundation continues to support the use of SchoolFusion, a one-of-a-kind communication tool, in all 93 Division schools, and continues to support students pursuing careers in teaching through the Dr. Edward L. Kelly Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Each year we embark upon new initiatives to help make education brighter for our students. We now support more than seven scholarship funds; play a vital role in the VA STAR computer education and refurbishment program; provide clothes and gifts to families in need via our Holiday Helpers initiative; and continue to grow our fundraising campaign, Eats 4 Education.

The support that SPARK is able to leverage enriches students' lives every day. These children are the foundation for our community's future growth and prosperity, and it is only possible to build on that strong foundation with the continued support of our corporate and community partnerships. The quality of our schools is more than simply a desirable community feature. A strong school division is vital for the future success of our nation, and with the experience and determination of the SPARK Board of Directors, we can guarantee that our success will only continue to strengthen PWCS.

We invite you to offer support for the Foundation's initiatives and help provide opportunities for PWCS students to reach their greatest potential. Your involvement will be tremendously rewarding to you and to our community's students. Call us at 703.791.8001 to find out more.

BY SP

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Schwster

Chris Schuster President of SPARK

Classroom Innovators



2011-12 Innovative Grant Recipients

Funds invested in programs that directly and measurably impact student achievement. These programs may impact a single classroom, a team of teachers, an individual school, or the entire School Division. Whatever their size, scope, or purpose, they represent a profound belief that every child can be successful.

- Forest Park High School, \$4,635, funding for "Cognitively Speaking." Funding was used to purchase a Luminous SkyCeiling for a disabled student classroom. The ceiling will provide these students with visual stimulation they currently lack since their current classroom does not have windows.
- > Freedom High School, \$1,000, funding towards "Controlling Erosion and Improving Water and Soil Quality." Through this project, students conducted a restoration project on an eroded hillside located on school grounds. Scientific investigations included observing, classifying, measuring, and interpreting different types of data in order to discover the most successful method to help control erosion.
- Independent Hill/PACE East, \$5,000, funded project entitled "Happy on the Hill." Funding was used to purchase essential adaptive physical education and play equipment for students who have difficulty with focus/attention and emotional stress. This adaptive equipment meets the unique needs of a diverse, special education student population.

- Marsteller Middle School, \$4,954, funding towards "Technical Innovations in Science Investigations." This program uses technology to enhance scientific exploration in order to apply real-world experiences to science classroom material.
- Pattie Elementary School, \$2,500, funding for project entitled "Project Connect." Through a 3-tiered intervention approach the goal of this program is to increase student/ school connectedness for at risk-students. Keeping these students connected to school will help to solve the problem of excessive absenteeism for these students.
- > Pennington Traditional School, \$1,784, funding for "Tll Take Understanding What I Just Read for \$2,000, Alex." This program was designed to improve reading skills and comprehension by encouraging students to demonstrate what they have learned in a competitive environment.
- > PWC Schools Office of Science, \$5,000, funding for a project entitled "Let's Get Rocking—Earth Science Inquiry Investigation Kits." Funding for this program was used to purchase investigation kits which are designed to provide teachers with materials and lessons to help students develop a solid understanding of geology and scientific investigation concepts.
- > PWC Schools Office of Student Services, \$3,000, funding for a project entitled "Empowering Students to Serve Their Community." Through this program students will be provided with the opportunity to develop and carry out a community service project in their school. These projects include how to combat

cyber bullying or hosting a Random Acts of Kindness Day.

- Rippon Middle School, \$1,550, funding for a project entitled "Sew-Sew." The purpose of this project is to provide students with an opportunity to use their math skills in a real-life setting. Students learned measurement skills by cutting fabric and working with seam measurements and learned the importance of community involvement by donating pillowcases to local charitable organizations as part of the Million Pillowcase Project.
- Battlefield High School, \$1,670, funding for a project entitled "Making Connections with Nature to Improve Environmental Education." Funding for this project was used to build an outdoor classroom along Catharpin Creek which runs through the school campus. The classroom provides a setting for students to study a natural biological system as well as make direct observations of biotic and abiotic factors in a local habitat.
- > Battlefield High School, \$3,500, funding for project entitled "Creating an Outdoor Exploration Laboratory." Through this project students create nature stations along a stream located on school grounds. The nature stations are used to study concepts in science, math, english, and art.
- > Bennett Elementary School, \$2,970, funding for project entitled "Trout in the Classroom." Funds were used to purchase and stock aquariums in two fourth-grade classrooms. During the school year students examine the growth of trout by observing eggs hatching and monitoring the growth process by keeping "trout journals."



- Forest Park High School, \$5,000, funding towards "Robotics Projects Lead the Way." This program is a classroom STEM initiative designed to use robotics to provide project-based, hands-on learning. The robots are designed to teach engineering and problem solving in both regular and advanced placement computer courses.
- > Leesylvania Elementary School, \$1,500, funding for project entitled "From the Classroom to the Living Room." This program promotes positive attitudes towards reading while also improving individual reading skills and allows both teachers and parents to work together to improve student reading skills.
- > New Directions Alternative School, \$5,000, funding for "Explorations in Animal Husbandry." Funding for this project was used to construct habitats that allow students to observe and study organisms in a close approximation of their natural environment.
- > New Dominion Alternative Center, \$2,500, funding for a project entitled "Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?" Through this program students have the opportunity to participate in a knowledge-based competition similar to the television game show. Winning students receive rewards. Since it is difficult for a child to make a connection to a place they view as punishment, the goal is to change how these students view school and help them gain a renewed interest in learning.
- > Osbourn Park High School, \$3,500, funding for a project entitled "Readinglicious." This program targets reluctant and struggling readers by providing them with resources to encourage and increase their reading skills.





- > Patriot High School, \$5,000, funding for "The Leader In Me Development Program." Funding for this program was used to provide continued leadership training at Patriot High School to bring school and community resources together to develop the leadership capacity in students through the use of sponsorships, mentorships, and partnerships.
- > Patriot High School, \$3,930, funding for "Immersing JASON into Prince William County." Through this program students develop the skills necessary to build an underwater remote operated vehicle (ROV) and learn about ocean exploration.
- > PWC Juvenile Shelter, \$1,000, funding for a project entitled "Green Thumbs: A Landscaping Horticulture Therapy Program." Funding was used to create a vegetable, fruit, and herb garden and a butterfly garden.
- > Rippon Middle School, \$200, funding for "Getting the Wiggles Out." The program's goal is to increase student learning by curbing in-class disturbances through the use of stability balls that replace desk chairs. Funds were used to purchase stability balls, hoops to stabilize the balls, and inflation pumps.
- Sudley Elementary School, \$1,611, funding for a project entitled "Project RISE—Read in Summer and Excel." Through this program, students were provided with five new books to read over the summer. After reading the books, students returned comments relating to the books back to the school on a pre-printed, stamped postcard.
- > Woodbridge High School, \$2,000, funding for "Songwriting for Everyone." Through this program students boosted vocabulary and written expression skills by composing original songs and lyrics.

Activities and Events

- > Hosted the "Saluting Our Stars" celebration event to recognize significant scholastic, artistic, and athletic achievements, as well as honor those individuals and businesses that made a significant impact on education and learning in Prince William County.
- > Sponsored the 19h Annual "Tee Off for Education" golf classic fundraising event to support innovative grant distribution to our departments and schools.

Scholarships

Awarded three high school seniors \$1,000 each to pursue a career in teaching as part of the Dr. Edward L. Kelly Memorial Scholarship program.

Awarded two \$2,000 scholarships to student athletes from the Derek Crowe Scholarship Fund.

Distributed \$2,000 in scholarships for the Washington Korean Women's Society.

- Distributed 3 \$1,000 scholarships to students pursuing a career in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) field through the Micron Foundation.
- Distributed a \$1,000 scholarship to a student pursuing a career in the Career and Technical Education field through the Micron Foundation.
- Distributed \$1,000 for three scholarships awarded through the Austin Trenum Memorial fund.
- Distributed a \$1,500 scholarship on behalf of the Kristin Harkness Memorial Fund.
- Collected funds and managed activity for the Caulkins Construction Adult Education and the Paul A. Wilson Memorial funds.
- Collected funds and managed activity for the "YES" (Yorkshire Elementary School) scholarship.

- > Sponsored the first Healthy Communities Healthy Youth (HCHY) Expo connecting parents and children with information related to school-based resources, health and fitness opportunities, child care programs, summer programs, and after school activities.
- > Hosted the 12th Annual Superintendent's Business Breakfast to provide a "State of the Schools" update, spotlight the School Division's commitment to excellence, school to business/community partnerships, and innovative grant successes.
- > Continued the "Eats for Education" fundraiser with local restaurant partnerships to raise additional funds for Foundation programs and initiatives.

Program Support

- > Continued fundraising the "Holiday Helpers" giving program to include Volunteer Prince William's Un-Trim-a-Tree program and the Battlefield Lodge 43 Fraternal Order of Police's Santa Cop program to provide food, gifts, and warm clothing to families-in-need.
- > Provided continued extensive support and financial assistance to the VA STAR (Virginia Student Training and Refurbishment) program to include the expansion of the program to other school districts in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- > Continued support by providing more than \$75,000 in funding for the "SchoolFusion" initiative, raised by leasing and managing commercial advertising space on all PWCS school Web sites. "SchoolFusion" provides an online communication platform for teachers, students, and parents so they can share information.
- > Continued support for the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) Education Coordinator position, providing a robust selection of robotics programs in all PWC schools and other STEM and career and technical education initiatives to schools.
- > Support for the SMART Beginnings Coordinator position, working to improve the quality of care and education for children from birth until kindergarten and to ensure that children are ready to succeed in school and in life.
- Manage endowment fund to support future programs in PWCS. Fund was established in memory of Michele Wickham, long standing director of the PWCS Education Foundation.

12TH ANNUAL

SUPERINTENDENT'S

SPARK encourages community partners to become involved with student achievement, programs, and innovations. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Steven L. Walts shared an update on the start of another successful school year during his "State of the Schools" address with the local business community at the Annual Superintendent's Business Breakfast held on October 25, 2012 at the Kelly Leadership Center. This event shared information about how businesses may partner with both the Prince William County Public Schools Education Foundation and the School Division to help strengthen and enhance local public education in support of our 93 schools and more than 83,000 students.







SPARK thanks the following donors for their support of the 12th Annual Superintendent's Business Breakfast.

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2011-12 Financial Supporters

The following list of businesses, civic organizations, and individuals reflects generous support through gifts of time, talent, in-kind, and cash donations that invested in public education during the 2011-12 school year. Without their contributions, the work of SPARK would not have been possible.

Many donors choose to support SPARK through their workplace giving campaigns, such as United Way, America's Charities, or other charitable programs. Several PWCS employees also contribute through payroll deduction. While the names of these individuals are often unknown, their gifts enabled our program to flourish. For that, we thank you.

INFLUENTIAL (\$75,000 +)

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FY 2011-12 FINANCIAL REPORT

SUPPORT CONTINUES TO GROW

SPARK'S ANNUAL INCOME KEEPS RISING

Even in These Economic Times



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We hope we have not omitted valuable community partners from this list. If we have, please accept our sincere apologies for the oversight. We invite you to contact us at 703.791.8001 so we can correct our records.



19th Annual Golf Classic Raises \$71,150

Thank You!

SPARK thanks the following donors for their support of the 19th Annual Golf Tournament.

Acme Mechanical Contractors Aireco Supply, Inc. Airedale Appalachian Sales Group AMS Contractors Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Apple Federal Credit Union Architecture, Inc. BB&T **Benfield Electric** Blitz Associates, PA/ Latham Architecture **Boland Trane** Caldwell and Santimever, Inc. Cavendo Colonial Webb Cunningham Associates, Inc. Custom Service, Inc. (CSI) **Dustin Construction** East to West Embroidery Engineered Services, Inc. (ESI) Ennis Electric Company, Inc. Finley Asphalt & Sealing, Inc. **GEICO** (Stinson Insurance) Hayes Large Intelligent Building Systems, Inc. Jackson National Life Insurance Co and Payne Financial



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Congratulations Tournament Winners!

Susan Wallthal LADIES LONGEST DRIVE Stephen Lechner **MEN'S LONGEST DRIVE CLOSEST TO THE PIN** Mark Carroll Rob Niber PUTTING COMPETITION Mike Pybus FIRST PLACE, FLIGHT ONE **Bryant Pybus** Dave Lambour **B** Sumner Jon Rector FIRST PLACE, FLIGHT TWO Chris Littlejohn D Klingman Benny Brooks John Pickett FIRST PLACE, FLIGHT THREE

TIKOT LECE, TEIOTT TIKEE

Mike Pickett Joe Harris Scott Decker





Thank you to our sponsors who supported the students, staff, and educators that make our School Division such a success.

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2012 Business Partnership AWARD WINNERS



DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER AND THE PWCS OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Dominion Virginia Power has provided grants to the Governor's School @ Innovation Park and science teachers in our classrooms. This partnership provides a meaningful experience through the program called *Project Plant It!*, by providing donated blue spruce tree seedlings for every third grade student in all elementary schools. The program teaches thousands of students and community members about the value of trees in our ecosystem. *Project Plant It!* enhances the classroom learning experience by increasing comprehension, student achievement, and hands-on learning experiences for each and every third grade student.



SySTEMic SOLUTIONS AND PATRIOT HIGH SCHOOL

SySTEMic Solutions has been the driving force in creating and supporting opportunities for students to develop their skills in STEM — science, technology, engineering, and math. The curriculum developed by SySTEMic Solutions aligns with K-12 Career and Technical Education programs and is delivered and built upon the critical need for a transition to a hands-on, activity-based approach to learning. The program funds professional development opportunities for teachers of STEM curricula, offers 14 summer robotics camps to local elementary, middle, and high schools students, provides hands-on science lessons through a program called Explore Science!, and supports scholarships for three Pathway to Baccalaureate students to attend NOVA in a STEM-related program.



THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) FOREST SERVICE AND THE PWCS OFFICE OF MEDIA SERVICES

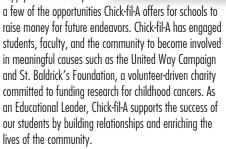
The USDA Forest Service has been a partner with PWCS since 2002, inspiring and educating students about the value of America's great outdoors and meeting state educational standards. In addition to receiving numerous awards and accolades for their projects, they have donated their resources through high-quality distance learning experiences including, BatsLIVE, PollinatorLIVE, and MonarchLIVE. The USDA Forest Service also serves as the key sponsor to support outdoor experiences such as, Ed Out: Head Out for Education and Fun and the Healthy Communities • Healthy Youth (HCHY) Expo.

MIKE LOVITT, OPERATOR OF CHICK-FIL-A IN BRISTOW

Our 2012 Business Partner

in Education

Mike has gone above and beyond to bring success into PWCS. With his leadership, time, and commitment he has helped to make many of the efforts of the Education Foundation possible. Spirit nights, bake sales, and school supply drives are only



A Perfect Partnership

SPARK greatly appreciates the continued support that is received from the Prince William County School Board. Our success is the result of a great partnership with our School Division and its leadership, and for this we are incredibly thankful. The Foundation looks forward to collaborating with our School Board members for many years to come.

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