

There's a New Piersol in Town

By Sharvani Mehta

The MLWGS Drama Club will be welcoming a new sponsor for the 2013-2014 school year— Mrs. Carol Piersol, a renowned member of the Richmond theater community.

“I am thrilled to be sponsoring the Drama program this year at MLWGS,” said Mrs. Piersol about the experience. “I am not anticipating any changes until I get to know the students’ wants and needs. That being said, there were many students at the first meeting who seemed very eager to perform so I am hoping to do some special projects so that every student who wants to can be on stage.”

Mrs. Piersol is one of the founding members of the Firehouse Theatre in Richmond, which was started in 1993, and has worked on many projects there, including some with MLWGS students.

Mrs. Piersol said she has also got to know a few MLWGS Drama members last year in Mr. John Piersol’s drama class.

“Mrs. Piersol will be a great addition to Maggie Walker Drama... she has loads of experience working with the Richmond drama community.”

“I met some of the drama students when I did a Meisner workshop for Mr. Piersol’s drama class last year. I also know Lily Hargis and Georgina Coffey through their work at the Firehouse Theatre,” she said. “And I also directed Naomi Vickers this summer in "Imagination Detonation" for SPARC’s New Voices.”

“I’m bummed to see Mrs. Chiodo go. She was always super organized and she knew what she was doing,” said Elizabeth Ratliffe (’15), a member of the Drama program here. “Mrs. Piersol has a lot of prestige throughout the Richmond community for theatre, so [I’m] excited to get some professionalism.”

When asked about her past MLWGS Drama experiences, Mrs. Piersol replied, “I have seen a few MLWGS productions and was most impressed. Les Mis was outstanding. There are many talented students at this school.”

“Mrs. Piersol will be a great addition to Maggie Walker Drama because she has loads of great experience working with the Richmond drama community,” said Jillian Miles (’14), Drama Club historian.

“We have met with Mrs. Piersol and many of our members have worked with her before. I think she will be a great addition to our program and we are thankful to have her.” Miles added.

This year, the Drama department will be putting on William Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night* as their fall play, in continuation with tradition.

Auditions for *Twelfth Night* will begin September 30, with performances set for November 14, 16, and 17. Maggie Walker’s annual One Acts festival as well as the spring musical are also on the schedule.

In addition, the Drama department will be performing at Fall Festival and will put on a *Twelfth Night* “play trailer,” a kind of preview of the November production.

Unlike last year, the club will not be doing brief Shakespeare, and instead will have different performances from members of the club. The club will also be selling tickets for *Twelfth Night*.

An exciting and productive year awaits the Drama program at MLWGS, and the members are ready to welcome a



Mrs. Carol Piersol is the newest addition to and sponsor of the MLWGS Drama Club this year. Photo courtesy of Mr. John Piersol.

new sponsor.

“Although it will be an adjustment, we do believe the club can flourish under her guidance,” said Miles.

Concluded Mrs. Piersol, “It should be an exciting year of Drama at MLWGS and I am proud to be a part of it.”

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Hang in There

Welcome back, Dragons! Hopefully you've all settled in, spending time in your new commons and figuring out the lay of the land in your new classes. We here at *The Jabberwock* have already started to see that iconic MLWGS transition from bright-eyed, eager students to mumbling, sleep-deprived zombies. As we come to the end of the first full week of school, I'm sure we all need a few motivational words.

Freshmen: You will survive FIRC. You will absorb your daily schedule and no longer rely on multiple copies of it and the thick manila PTSA packets to get you between classes. The teachers will learn your names. After several bad haircuts, you will find your own style.

Sophomores: One down, three to go. I'm sure you will find a date for the Valentine's dance. . . even if that means your relative nobody knows from another school. Best of all, after this year you will nev-

er have to change out for another Health and P.E. class.

Juniors: Say goodbye to sleep. I'm sure grey hair will be in style soon, anyway. Don't stress too much about the SAT; as long as you write your name on the sheet, it's an automatic 200. And remember, next year you get to sit in the Senior Commons!

Seniors: You will graduate. In June, on another fateful Friday the 13th, exactly nine months from today, you will be walking across the stage with diploma in hand. Until then, make the most of the year. You don't have another to look forward to.

-The Jabberwock Staff

Have an opinion?

WRITE A LETTER TO
THE EDITOR

newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us



THE MLWGS *Jabberwock*

Editorial Policy:

The MLWGS Jabberwock covers news events related to the school community and provides a forum for students to share their ideas. Statements expressed by columnists or in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. However, all editorials are the combined work of both the Editor-in-Chief and her staff.

All members of the MLWGS community are invited to submit letters to the editor on any topic, although the publication of all letters is not guaranteed. The newspaper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, language and length. Please e-mail letters to newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us.

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Russian Retreat

By Annika Basch

The Cold War, the frozen tundra, and drunk, bearded old men come to mind when thinking about Russia. However, this summer, a group of thirteen Maggie Walker Russian students discovered the culture of Russia for themselves. They toured Russia for three weeks on the unofficial biannual trip led by Mr. White.

"I was really interested in Russian culture," said Piper Shifflet ('15), smiling as she recounted the excursion. "I wanted to experience it firsthand."

The students traveled along western Russia, experiencing everything from the landmark cities of St. Petersburg and Moscow, to several smaller, old cities like Pskov, Novgorod, and Rostov-on-

Don in the heart of the country.

"My favorite place was Novgorod," said Emma Ohlsson ('15). "You could feel the soul of the city."

In addition to the typical tourist experience, the group got to know their Russian counterparts.

"I was really interested in Russian culture."

"The point is for my students to meet their Russian peers," said Mr. White. "They see Russian life for a short time, but really immerse themselves in it."

The students found Russia surprisingly warm, both in temperature and hospitality.



In front of St. Basil's Cathedral, the students gathered for a picture on Red Square in Moscow. Photo by Mr. White.



To visit the operational Pechorsk Monastery, the students had to dress modestly. For those wearing shorts or short skirts, this meant putting on a wrap skirt to cover up. Photo by Mr. White.

"Contrary to popular belief, Russia in the summer is warm," said Shifflet. "It was hot, they don't have ice, and they serve hot tea."

Luckily, the people were similarly warm.

"Everyone in Russia is so nice and so hospitable," said Ohlsson. "They are willing to try hard to communicate with you." This is fortunate since they interacted so regularly.

"We traveled for two weeks with a group of Russian students from Rostov," said Shifflet. Their time together culminated with a thirty-three hour train ride from St. Petersburg to Rostov-on-Don, Shifflet's favorite part.

"It was a really good bonding time." And "we got to see the country go by."

In Rostov-on-Don, the

students each stayed with their own Russian families. They went to school together in the morning, but after that, the Russian students could take them to see the city.

"We learned a lot about day-to-day interactions with Russians," said Shifflet.

From this tantalizingly brief trip, the students have gained lasting friendships and lasting memories.

"You come back with some really good friends – some you may not have been friends with," said Shifflet.

Ohlsson, whose birthday fell close to the time of the trip said, "It was the best way I could have spent my birthday."

"It was the best three weeks of my life," said Jillian Miles ('14).

MLWGS Welcomes Four New Teachers

By Sam Martin

“Turn me loose on an interesting problem and I am pretty much useless for anything else for a day or two,” said Dr. Leo Wibberly of his passion for mathematics.

Wibberly, who is currently teaching Multivariable Calculus at MLWGS, is one of four new teachers who have been added to the faculty for the 2013-2014 school year.

“Turn me loose on an interesting problem and I am pretty much useless for anything else for a day or two.”

In addition to Wibberly, Dr. Julius Oreska, is teaching

AP Micro and Macro Economics, Mr. Jeffrey Gallagher is teaching the International Law Seminar, and Ms. Kinsey Hall is teaching VCU Dual Enrollment Eastern and Western World Religions.

This year’s new faculty come to MLWGS from a variety of academic backgrounds.

Wibberly, who also teaches Calculus, Discrete Mathematics and Statistics courses part-time at the University of Richmond, worked with MLWGS between 2008 and 2010, filling in for Mr. Dickson Benesh, who was on sabbatical.

“I really enjoyed the experience then” said Wibberly, “and leapt at the opportunity to come back and teach another couple sections for Lynn Foshee Reed while she is on sabbatical.”

“I wish I had a little more time in my day to hang out at the school and get reacquainted with folks,” he added.

“I’m looking forward to giving back to MLWGS by teaching AP Economics this year.”

Dr. Oreska, who holds a Ph.D. in economics, comes to MLWGS from a 37-year career at the Federal Reserve. “While I am new to teaching at MLWGS,” said Oreska, the parent of two MLWGS alumni, “I am very familiar with [the school].”

Mr. Jeffrey Gallagher, who is teaching the International Law Seminar, comes

to MLWGS as a parent of a former student. Gallagher brings the International Law curriculum to MLWGS out of a desire to better fulfill the school’s mission of training students to participate in a global society.

So far, new faculty members say they have had positive experiences teaching at MLWGS, and are looking forward to the forthcoming school year.

“My overall impression of teaching at MLWGS is very positive,” said Oreska. “I’m looking forward to giving back to MLWGS by teaching AP Economics this year.”

“I look forward to this year in my Multivariable classes because it has some fascinating topics,” said Wibberly, who expressed excitement in particular to explore the applications that Multivariable Calculus has in Physics.

“My students are very enthusiastic and interested in economics... They are a joy to teach.”

“I intend to work hard to help the students prepare for the AP exams in Economics this year,” said Oreska, “and also to be prepared for their college studies by better understanding the economy and how it works.”

“My students are very enthusiastic and interested in economics,” he continued. “They are a joy to teach, and I feel very fortunate in being able to do so.”



Dr. Leo Wibberly teaches a fourth period Multivariable Calculus class. Wibberly is one of four new teachers added to the MLWGS faculty for the 2013-2014 school year. Photo by Srishiti Sanya.

Friday Fatigue

Opinion

By Radhika Srivastava
(¹⁵)

I still remember a conversation I overheard on the bus between two freshman girls last September.

“Hey, how was your day?” asked one friend of the other as she made room in the seat.

Heaving her overstuffed backpack into the seat first, the friend responded, “I’m serious, I never want to do that again.”

It was Friday afternoon, and everyone was clearly tired. But, this wasn’t just an everyday MLWGS fatigue.

The first all eight class Friday of the year had successfully exhausted these two girls, along with the rest of our student body.

It’s a MLWGS tradition to have one day of the week when students attend all eight of their classes.

In this way, we’re able to have both our odd and even day classes equally through the week, a system that isn’t present in most other high schools.

The point of an all-classes day is to freshen our memory of everything we’ve learned recently.

Why then do we have it on the day of the week when teachers and students alike are most tired?

Thursday nights at MLWGS aren’t exactly known for partying. Students dread this evening most, and are often up till early hours of

the morning completing assignments and studying for quizzes.

Because each class on a Friday is only forty-five minutes long, teachers often assign quizzes or class seminars for these days. This leaves the rest of the days for lecturing, note-taking, or other class assignments.

While this system is an efficient use of time, it loads the students with two, three, or even four larger assignments all due on the same day.

In all, this isn’t a bad idea, but having them on a Friday is. Instead, we should move the Friday schedule to Monday.

The weekend gives students more time to prioritize what should be done first, and then do it.

Throughout the week, students go to school all day, attend sports or extracurricular activities in the afternoon, and then face hours of homework each night.

In general, we’re more relaxed over the weekend and better able to retain whatever we study. We’ll be able to produce a better quality of work with the extra time, too.

Starting the week off by going to every class will give us a head start as to what is coming ahead.

After a weekend’s rest, students will be more prepared, both mentally and physically, to tackle an all classes day.

The benefits of having all our classes on one day are many, but these benefits can only be appreciated when we’re awake enough to enjoy them.

News in Brief

Chess Team Announces Competition and Service Opportunities

By Daniel Yoo

After getting a taste of their potential, chess team members are combining the opportunity for competitive chess and a way to earn community service hours. The chess team enjoyed one of their most successful seasons last year, finishing first in the Virginia High School Chess League Championship and third in the Virginia Scholastic Chess Championship.







“Our success last year put us in a place where we can look to finish second or even first this year,” said chess team captain Isaac Steincamp (¹⁵). This year is a growth stage for the team, sponsored by physics teacher Mr. Boyle.

For the first time, the chess team will offer free chess clinics on a monthly basis. In addition to this, potential, incoming members have an opportunity to volunteer at the second annual chess camp, which offered at least 40 hours of service to participants last year. The club, according to Steincamp, does not intend to stress everyone to compete, but rather allow members to express their interest in chess in service-oriented opportunities.





The first meeting for the chess team will be this Friday during lunch, in room 111, and subsequent meetings and practices will be held on Tuesdays and Fridays, respectively.

Scoreboard





Field Hockey

	Walker	2	1 — 3	Tierney Whelan ('15), Catherine Leahy ('15) and Laura Fuhr ('15) scored, Tallie Hausser ('15) had 5 saves and the Dragons shut out arch rival Thomas Dale to improve to 1-0.
	T. Dale	0	0 — 0	
	Walker	4	2 — 6	Laura Fuhr ('15), scored three times, Abby Williams ('14), Marissa Raper ('15), and Eliza Bellamy ('15) scored once each, and the Dragons blanked Freeman to improve to 2-0.
	Freeman	0	0 — 0	
	Walker	2	1 — 4	Anna Phares ('14), Abby Williams ('14), Katie Henneke ('15) and Rachel Thoms ('15) combined to score for the Dragons as Walker beat Godwin to remain 3-0, undefeated.
	Godwin	0	0 — 0	

Boy's Volleyball



	Walker	27	14	20	Richard Schweiker ('14) had 7 kills, while Matt Reichert ('14) had 7 aces and 3 kills, and Maggie Walker lost to Colonial Heights to fall to 0-3.
	CH	29	25	25	
	Walker	25	25	25	Strong team play paced the Dragons, as they swept Thomas Jefferson in straight sets to pick up their first win of the season.
	TJ	12	11	10	

Girl's Volleyball


	Walker	25	25	Sarah Dishman ('14) had 9 assists and 4 aces, Caitlin Swecker had 5 kills and Walker dismantled Prince George en route to a semifinals win in the Trinity Episcopal Invitational.
	P. George	11	20	
	Walker	26	25	Caitlin Swecker ('14) had 10 kills and 2 aces, Emma Arents ('15) had 5 kills and 6 digs and the Dragons defeated host Trinity to win the Trinity Episcopal Invitational.
	Trinity	24	22	

Emma Arents and Caitlin Swecker were named to the all-tournament team, while Swecker was named tournament MVP.

Golf

	Walker	174	Daniel Yoo ('14) shot a 39, John Li ('16) and Brandon Shaw ('15) shot a pair of 43's, but the Dragons came up just short against the Patriots, losing at the par 35 Hanover Country Club by 6 strokes.
	P. Henry	168	

Cross Country

 The MWGS Cross Country team swept both A division team titles at the Newport News Invitational on Saturday, as seniors Alex Fleckenstein and Daisy Banta paved the way for the Dragons.



The MWGS field hockey team huddles around Coach Hawkins during its 6-0 defeat of Freeman on Monday.
Photo courtesy of Claire Mendelson.

Athlete of the Issue



Alex Fleckenstein ('14) captains another impressive edition of Walker Cross Country, leading the Dragons in pursuit of a 2A title.
Photo courtesy of Alex Fleckenstein.

Q: What is your favorite sport outside of running?

A: It has to be Wiffle Ball.

Q: Favorite class?

A: Multivariable Calculus, no doubt.

Q: Go-to afternoon snack?

A: Microwaveable noodles.

Q: Most embarrassing thing on your iPod?

A: I'm not proud of having Bieber.

Q: Favorite card game?

A: Old Maid

Q: Most memorable Cross Country moment to date?

A: It has to be finishing 7th at States last season.

Q: Season goals?

A: Winning states would be awesome.