

**Schools Update September 2011**  
**Laura Stone**

Welcome back! The faculty and staff of Oakridge, Gunston, and Wakefield are looking forward to a wonderful new school year!

Subject: OAKRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEEDS TUTORS

Oakridge Elementary School needs more tutors and your help is requested:

The Oakridge neighborhood volunteer tutoring program is in its 14th year continues to make a difference in the lives of children in your community.

Tutors work with a 3rd, 4th, or 5th grader in reading, math, and homework Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 4:45pm.

Volunteers will receive training, be provided with appropriate materials, and enjoy support and access to resources to ensure student and tutor success.

For more information about this most rewarding program please contact:

Tom Martin (703)521-5005, e-mail [tom\\_martin542@hotmail.com](mailto:tom_martin542@hotmail.com)  
<[mailto:tom\\_martin542@hotmail.com](mailto:tom_martin542@hotmail.com)>

**Oakridge Overcrowding**

Arlington Public Schools' projects new school buildings and/or additions are now needed to handle increased enrollment throughout the school system. Some schools, including Oakridge, are currently over their capacity numbers, and many more schools are expected to be at or above capacity in the next several years. The APS staff has asked PTAs, to help set priorities by asking their opinion on additions or other ways to increase capacity in preparation for the 2012 Capital Improvement Plan.

After a series of meetings in May and June and with additional responses to the APS questionnaire gathered online, the Oakridge PTA responded that we would not support the idea of a permanent addition of 8-10 classrooms at our school.

The community strongly believes it is not in the best interest of students, teachers, immediate neighbors and the community at large to become a "mega school" in Arlington County. Oakridge has a capacity between 550 and 581,

just below the county's preferred school size of 600 and currently has 630 students; permanent additions that result in an even larger student population will strain our current infrastructure and have detrimental, long-term effects on our neighborhood community.

The community also overwhelmingly rejected the idea of increasing class sizes by 1-2 students again, because this type of increase puts a disproportionate burden on our already large and overcrowded schools while some schools are still well below capacity.

The complete response to the APS questionnaire can be read at [www.arcaonline.com](http://www.arcaonline.com) <<http://www.arcaonline.com>>

If you would like more information on Oakridge, and our community's response to school crowding please contact Molly Watson [mollyswatson@gmail.com](mailto:mollyswatson@gmail.com) <<mailto:mollyswatson@gmail.com>>

## GUNSTON

- 1) Ice Cream Social in Gunston Cafeteria is on Sept. 1 from 6p.m. to 7p.m.
- 2) First Day of School--Tuesday, Sept. 6
- 3) PTA sponsored Fall Fest, held in the cafeteria and in the parking lot outside the main office, is on Sept. 23 from 6p.m. until 9:00 p.m.
- 4) Back to school night is Sept. 27 beginning at 6:00 with a PTA sponsored reception outside Theater I. Classroom visits will be from 6:45 p.m. until 8:50 p.m. The PTA also plans to sell pizza before the program gets started to help out parents and children who did not have a chance to eat supper.

## WAKEFIELD

Construction on the new high school has begun! Building completion is projected for 2013 and grounds completion is projected for 2014. The construction of Wakefield High School has been targeted to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Silver certification upon completion. The following is a brief list of some of the LEED efforts in the new building:

- \* A Geothermal HVAC system
- \* Solar hot water panels
- \* Rain garden landscape feature for on-site storm water management
- \* Recycling construction waste
- \* Low-emitting materials to create high indoor air quality

- \* Waste heat from mechanical system used to heat the pool
- \* Energy efficient windows to reduce energy consumption
- \* CO2 monitors to regulate fresh air flow
- \* Daylight harvesting - light sensors that dim artificial light to respond to natural light levels
- \* Reforestation adjacent to existing mature forested areas using native vegetation

To check out the website for "all things Wakefield" go to:

<http://www.apsva.us/site/default.aspx?domainid=2021>