

The Voice and Vision for Pupil Transportation in Virginia

October

2015



Updated VAPT Website

If you have not been out to the VAPT Website recently, you need to take a look. We have a new, more user friendly version where you can find all the information you need. There are tabs for Transportation, VAPT Conferences, Resources and Contact information. Just go to www.vapt.org

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National School Bus Safety Week

National School Bus Safety Week is an active and evolving public education program and an excellent way for parents, students, teachers, motorists, school bus operators, school administrators, and other interested parties to join forces and address the importance of School Bus safety Week—held during the third week in October each year. Mark the dates: **October 19-23, 2015.**

To share your School Bus Safety Week celebrations photos please send them to: cfisher@fcps1.org and we will publish them in the next VAPT newsletter.

VAPT Poster Contest 2016

The slogan for this year is **#Stop On Red!**

Who May Enter - Anyone enrolled in a public school. Five winning divisions that include: Division #1-Grades K-2; Division #2 –Grades 3-5; Division #3-Grades 6-8; Division #4-Special Education; and Division #5-Computer Aided Drawing (CAD). The first place winner from each division will be entered in the national poster contest.

Deadline Date - Completed poster designs must be post marked by April 30, 2016. All entries become the property of the State School Bus Safety Committee, and will not be returned.

Poster Specifications - Completed poster size must be 12" by 18" only, with a one-inch (1") blank border completely across the bottom of the poster. This space must be available due to printing requirements. If not provided, poster will be disqualified. Posters may be illustrated on the vertical or horizontal axis.

Prizes - Prizes will be awarded for the first, second, and third places in each division as follows:

1st Place Winner for each division	\$100.00 Check and Blue Ribbon
2nd Place Winner of each division	\$ 75.00 Check and Red Ribbon
3rd Place Winner of each division	\$ 50.00 Check and White Ribbon

For complete instructions and entry form go to the VAPT website at www.vapt.org

Happenings!

Virginia's "Best" School Bus Technician

On June 22nd the sixth Virginia's "Best" School Bus Technician Competition was hosted by Carter Machinery Company at their Salem, Virginia office. Congratulations to the following:

1st Place—Elvis D. Blunt, Sr. from Greenville County Public Schools

2nd Place-Bill Alsko from City of Hopewell Public Schools

3rd Place-Donald Ertel from City of Virginia Beach Public Schools

Other participants included: Steven Fidler from Montgomery County Public Schools and Scott Childs from Stafford County Public Schools. Many thanks to the following vendors for their support

of the competition: Alan Tye & Associates, Carter Machinery Company, Inc., Kingmor Supply, Inc., and Sonny Merlyman, Inc.

Hanover Schools' Transportation Department Honor 37 for Perfect Attendance

The transportation department of Hanover County Public Schools recently recognized 37 bus drivers, attendants and traffic guards for perfect attendance for the entire 2014-15 school year.

These employees were honored for their exceptional accomplishment last month during the district's in-service safety and training meeting. Later that day they were treated to a special catered buffet luncheon. During the luncheon each employee received a framed certificate signed and presented by the division's director of trans-



portation, Michael Ashby, together with a handsome gold colored lapel pin reading "Perfect Attendance".

Those employees earning the perfect attendance distinction are, Jacqueline Bischoff, Margaret Gilman, Patricia Lewis, Connie Uilkie, Stuart Holmes, Bill Hazelwood, Kenneth Stevens, Elaine Carter, Rogina Bailey, Bobby Booth, Vicki Shearin, Debra Smith, Faron Heath, Charles Starke, Lawrence Varnerin, Mary Anderson, Patricia Wyatt, Steven Taylor, Cordell Wright, Alice Ford, Dot Amos, Vanessa Mines, Leroy Foster, Nancy Hart, Bridgett Foster, Danny Begley, Randall Wyatt, Sherri Hollins, Deborah Laux, Sandra Boshier, Stephen Aschenbach, Larry Walter, Richard Peebles, Harry Dandridge, Donald Hart and Shannon Porter.

VAPT 2015 Scholarship Recipients



2015 Clyde W. Morris Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Entering the University of Hartford in West Hartford, CT this fall, this year's recipient will be pursuing a degree in Acoustic Engineering – a unique major which combines Mechanical Engineering with Music.

Sophie Rachelle Kaye
Fairfax County

Our recipient is an accomplished classical jazz saxophone performer and was active in her high school symphonic marching and jazz ensembles.

She is a member of both the National Honor Society and the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Active for thirteen years in the Girl Scouts, Ms. Kaye has served as a counselor for the past few years at a Girl Scout summer camp.

Active in her local BBYO, a youth group which focuses on community service and social action, she enjoys working with children and has served in several key capacities in her local synagogue including as a youth prayer leader, classroom aide and Hebrew School assistant teacher.



2015 Sonny Merryman Memorial Scholarship Recipient

The recipient of the 2nd annual VAPT Sonny Merryman Memorial Scholarship lives on the family farm in Page County and attributes her parents with having taught her the true value of hard work and establishing life goals.

Samantha Lee Shenk
Page County

With her heart deeply rooted in Agriculture, Ms. Shenk actively participated in her local 4-H Club and the Future Farmers of America Club where she served for multiple years as an officer for both organizations. She was instrumental with these groups in various fundraising events and took personal pride in the showing of family farm livestock as well as serving as a livestock judge. She attended FFA conventions at both the State and National levels. She has been a member of the Page County Farmer's Association since 2013.

Samantha will be attending Lord Fairfax Community College this fall with plans to later transfer to Virginia Tech to complete her study in Agriculture.



Virginia's 2015 Buster Bynum Education Scholarship Recipient

While a student at Buckingham County High School, Kenneth was also a participant in the Dual Enrollment Program at Southside Virginia Community College where he received an Associate Degree in General Studies at about the same time as he received his high school diploma. He will be entering Virginia Tech this fall with a

Kenneth Edward Townsend
Buckingham County

career path in either forestry or wildlife conservation.

Kenneth was on the honor roll all four years of high school and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is active in his local church and involved in various community projects.

Having worked while in high school on the family farm – part time during the school year and full time during the summer - Kenneth learned the basics of raising burley tobacco and beef cattle. Since 2014 he also worked at a local greenhouse learning the basics of horticulture.

Kenneth enjoys hunting, fishing, carpentry work and playing the acoustic and electric guitar.

Bullying

Source: Safe Supportive Learning website safesupportivelearning.ed.gov

Bullying on the School Bus is becoming more frequent. Staff development and instruction on how to prevent it in the first place is crucial. Safe Supportive Learning website states that if you “see something, do something to intervene” in bullying. Here are some common tips from their site to aid in what to look for.

Possible signs of someone being bullied:

- Reports losing items such as books, electronics, clothing, or jewelry
- Has unexplained injuries
- Complains frequently of headaches, stomach aches, or feeling sick
- Hurts themselves
- Loses interest in visiting or talking with friends
- Is afraid of going to/from school or other activities with peers
- Appears sad, moody, angry, anxious, or depressed
- Talks about suicide
- Feels helpless
- Suddenly has fewer friends
- Avoids certain places
- Acts differently than usual
- Wants to sit near the driver
- Wants to sit with the same “safe” student or group of students all of the time (behind them, in front of them or surrounded by them)
- Wants to sit on the inside seat—not the aisle seat



Possible signs of someone who is bullying others:

- Becomes violent with others
- Gets into physical or verbal fights with others
- Gets in trouble a lot including being sent to the principal’s office or detention
- Has extra money or new belongings that cannot be explained
- Is quick to blame others
- Will not accept responsibility for their actions
- Has friends who bully others
- Needs to win or be best at everything
- Tries to move near enough to the student being bullied to continue bullying—for example, the bullying student may move near enough so the student being bullied can hear remarks, be touched, or be bothered
- Vies for attention, talks loudly, waves at the driver in the mirror, or moves from seat to seat
- Watches the driver and changes seats to be near the student being bullied when the driver is at an intersection or watching the road.

NAPT Annual Summit

Great news! The 41st Annual National Association Pupil Transportation Association Summit will be held in our great state of Virginia on November 6-10, 2015 in Richmond, VA. What a great opportunity to attend this conference! There will be many classes, sessions, and opportunities to connect with other transportation staff from around the country and in our awesome state. For this event to be in our backyard is indeed a privilege to learn, engage, explore and empower.

Search their website to schedule your attendance now! www.napt.org

Wellness Corner

Wellness for a school bus driver is crucial. Drivers of Virginia School Buses are required to have an annual physical examination to ensure they are healthy to drive a school bus. The months of June and July are met by drivers with apprehension and some frustration due to guidelines. Weight, BMI, neck size, and blood pressure appear to be the areas of greatest concern for drivers. Encourage your drivers and attendants to live a healthy lifestyle and passing the physical will be easier. Here are a few tips to begin now in the fall to prepare employees for next year's physical. By increasing awareness that their health is important can be one of the keys to keeping students safe.

- Eat a well-balanced diet. Higher protein, lower carb is best.
- Increase vegetable in-take and reduce salt.
- Reduce coffee, soda, and tea; drink more water.
- On the weekends, moderation of alcohol is imperative.
- Moderate exercise. After parking your bus, take a brisk walk daily.



Start now preparing for your physical examination. Make your appointment and set attainable goals.

Love the Bus



School bus drivers have made the Yellow School Bus the largest and safest transportation system in the country and are deserving of our thanks. By understanding the value of student transportation to our education system, Love the Bus promotes the idea that every person involved in our schools is critical to our children's success.

Every February the American School Bus Council and schools across America take time out to celebrate Love the Bus month. Take time to recognize your drivers, aides and staff during the month of February.

A Scholarship Moment.....

The VAPT Scholarship Committee has recently received “thank-you” notes from recipients of this year’s scholarships.

FROM 2015 ***CLYDE W. MORRIS SCHOLARSHIP*** RECIPIENT SOPHIE KAYE:

August 20, 2015

I am writing to thank you for your generous Clyde W. Morris Memorial Scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as this year’s recipient. I am an acoustic engineering & music major and I plan to pursue a career in designing concert halls. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal.

By awarding me this scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the important aspect of school – learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,

Sophie Kaye

FROM 2015 ***BUSTER BYNUM EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP*** RECIPIENT, KENNETH TOWNSEND:

June 29, 2015

Thank you for choosing me as the recipient of this scholarship. I can’t wait to continue my education at Virginia Tech this fall!

Kenneth Townsend

Injured Student Helped Driver in School Bus Wreck

Source: Chris Lawrence in News Sept. 28, 2015

HANOVER, W.Va. — A Westside High School student injured in a bus wreck Friday ignored his own injuries to help his bus driver.

“He actually got out of his seat and went directly to the driver to make sure she was all right,” said Jeff Hylton, director of transportation for the Wyoming County Board of Education. “He actually cut her seat belt to help her when she was in a lot of pain to get her on the floor and make her more comfortable. Then there were some fire department people on scene and he exited the bus.”

Hylton couldn’t release the name of the teenager who offered aid to the driver and was then taken to the hospital himself. The bus crashed near Hanover Friday afternoon in an area known as Steeles Hollow.

“The bus and the driver of the other vehicle had a head on collision,” said Hylton. “The bus stopped on an embankment and the embankment gave way causing it to slip over the hill.”

There were five students, all from Westside High on board. The one student who rendered aid to the driver was the only one injured and his injuries were slight. Hylton said the driver’s injuries were more serious, but she had no broken bones. The condition of the driver in the vehicle is unknown.

The bus security camera captured the actions of the student and another who went to assist the driver.

The crash remains under investigation. The last time a Wyoming County bus was involved in an accident was February, but it wasn’t nearly as serious, Hylton said.

