



The Student Leader

The newsletter of the oldest state student leadership organization in the nation.

March 2011

Spotlight on Student Councils Throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia

The *Student Leader* is a great place to obtain and share ideas that are relevant to your student council. Student leaders and advisers are encouraged to share their ideas in this format. This edition of the Student Leader features wonderful ideas from the hard-working student councils of Liberty High School, York High School, and Tuckahoe Middle School in our School Spotlight section of the newsletter.

The student leaders from Liberty, York, and Tuckahoe are all planning to attend Convention and share even more of their terrific leadership activities. Convention is the best place to find and share new ideas with other students. If you have never had the opportunity to attend Convention, you should definitely plan to be in Williamsburg this year. Your student council will gain a plethora of new and exciting ideas to build upon. Your student leaders may even have a few ideas they could share with others.

Don't forget to submit all of your information for Convention. Don't forget about our great guest speaker, Mike Smith, who will speak at the adviser luncheon, as well as speaking to the entire Convention. And, most importantly, don't forget about the opportunity (for the first time ever) student leaders will have to speak directly with the Virginia Board of Education.

Don't forget these important dates!

March 4	Postmark Deadline for: Achievement Award Administrator of the Year Adviser of the Year Call for Presentations Registration Deadline Hotel Registration Deadline
April 1 – 3	85 th Annual VSCA State Convention, Williamsburg

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IMPORTANT CONVENTION UPDATES

Convention Service Project – Terra-cycling

The service project for the 2011 VSCA Convention is Terra-cycling. Terra-cycling is a term that refers to recycling and re-using items that would otherwise be thrown away and end up in landfills. The items that are collected are returned to the manufacture to be recycled and a small amount of money is contributed to a charity for each item collected. A service project that preserves and maintains our environment supports the 2010 – 2011 VSCA theme of VSCA: Dedicated to a New Decade.

What you need to do to participate in the VSCA State Convention service project:

- Collect used **Drink pouches** (Capri Sun and Honest Kids brands), **Mars/Wrigley or Cadbury candy product wrappers** (such as M&Ms, Skittles, Snickers, Swedish Fish, Sour Patch Kids, Twix, etc.) and **Home Storage Ziploc products** (bags or containers).
- **Place all items in sealed cardboard boxes**. Make sure that each sealed box contains only one of the three types of products – drink pouches, candy product wrappers, or Ziploc products. **Do not mix the different items**.
- **Bring all sealed boxes of collected items with you to Convention**. All of the items will be stored at the hotel during the VSCA Convention. **Boxes that are not completely sealed will not be accepted**. A volunteer from the VSCA Advisory Committee will be in charge of removing the boxed items from the Convention site.

Good luck in this terra-cycling project. With the help of your school's student council and this project, the VSCA can truly be dedicated to a new decade.

If you have questions or need more information, contact VSCA Director Mike Nelson at 804.370.0822 or mnelson@scaleader.org.

Convention Regional Service Project – “Door Hangers”

During the regional meetings held on the first day of the VSCA Convention, schools meet together in their region to work on a regional service project. The regional service project for the 2011 VSCA Convention is making Door Hangers for senior citizens in retirement communities and for elementary school classrooms. By designing Door Hangers for senior citizens we are honoring the older generation. By creating Door Hangers for elementary students, we are reaching out to the next generation. In this way, the creation of Door Hangers at Convention ties into our theme of VSCA: Dedicated to a New Decade.

What you need to bring with you to the Regional Meetings at the VSCA State

Convention participate in the regional service project:

- **Foam Door Hangers:** At least one package of door hangers per school.
- **Foam Letters and Shapes:** At least one package of foam letters and shapes per school.
- **Permanent markers and/or puffy paint.**

All schools are encouraged to bring plenty of supplies with them for their school and enough to share with some of the other schools in their region. The door hangers that are created at the VSCA State Convention will be donated to schools and retirement communities. The Regional Service Project, along with the VSCA State Service Project, will allow the student leaders of Virginia to embrace the theme: VSCA: Dedicated to a New Decade.

If you have questions or need more information, contact VSCA Director Mike Nelson at 804.370.0822 or mnelson@scaleader.org.

Public Speaking Contest

WHEN: Saturday, April 2, 2011 10:10-10:50 a.m.

WHERE: VSCA Annual State Convention

HOW LONG: 3 to 5 minutes

TOPIC: Address the Convention theme --*“Dedicated to a New Decade”*

Participants will be judged on physical delivery, vocal delivery and content.

Come prepared and sign up on-site at the Convention!

Open Forum with the Virginia Board of Education

The Virginia Student Councils Association is quite fortunate to have the Virginia Board of Education at the VSCA State Convention in Williamsburg. In the Regional Meetings on Friday, April 1, student leaders will have the opportunity to discuss and share their opinions on various topics of interest relating to schools and the Board of Education. These regional discussions will help students to focus their ideas and plan out what they would like to say to the board on Saturday, April 2.

Members of the Board will listen to the students and their concerns in an open forum format. Board members will also be involved informally in the Convention, allowing for students to have more “relaxed” conversations with the Board. All in all, the participation of the Board of Education at the VSCA State Convention will elevate student leadership in Virginia to a new level!

The “Original” Mike Smith: Our Keynote Speaker



Mike Smith enjoys a great reputation as a curriculum writer on subjects ranging from time management to diversity to community service, a multimedia producer, an on-screen host, and a lifetime learner - studying a variety of subjects which find their way into his presentations. Mike is an honorary lifetime member of several educational and sales and marketing associations.

For the past 20 years Mike has taken his involving presentations to over two million parents, teachers, students, and administrators in the U.S. and Canada. He has been a consultant to, and presented at, many national, regional, state and local conferences. His audiences have ranged from CEO's to 2nd graders.

Mike is in demand as a keynote speaker, lending his talents to the themes and messages of his hosts. He has a wonderful ability to "launch" a conference by helping the attendees WANT to participate. As the wrap-up endnote speaker, Mike has helped many convention themes convert from the words and warm feelings of the conference to actions and desired results in the real world.

Mike's experience as a successful salesman lends a different flair to his small group presentations. His seminars on positive languaging, involvement strategies, and personal organization are among the best reviewed at any convention or conference, as demonstrated by the fact that he often faces audiences consisting of repeat attendees. People return to participate WITH Mike as he explores the finer points of whatever subject he is addressing.

Mike focuses on the youth market, and devotes much of his energy to helping educators improve our secondary schools. He has been instrumental in helping school districts open new schools, pass bond issues, and improve morale. He has written numerous articles and workbooks on subjects ranging from personal growth to working with volunteers. His student involvement and participation programs are used in schools across North America. His seminars on project planning, co-curricular activity sponsorship, meeting skills, time management, personal problem solving, attitude, languaging, and ethics in leadership constantly rank high among attendees for being informative, productive, and enjoyable.

He has earned the reputation of being able to pack a great deal of "learning" into a short amount of time. His rhymes are found in many wallets and purses across the country. His Southwestern wit has helped to make him popular with his audiences. *"An hour with Mike is one of the quickest hours you can spend."* His honesty and humorous delivery make The "Original" Mike Smith one of the most sought after speakers in North America.

Call for Candidates

Student leaders and their schools are encouraged to apply to be candidates for the following Regional Representative positions on the VSCA Advisory Committee for the 2011 – 2012 school year, for which the VSCA state office has not yet received any qualified applicants:

High School Representatives

Region 1
Region 2
Region 5
Region 6

Middle School Representatives:

Regions 3/4
Regions 5/6/7

Elementary School Representatives:

Regions 1/2/8
Regions 3/4
Regions 5/6/7

Please download and complete the regional representative forms from the website at www.scaleader.org. Candidate information must be completed fully and turned into the VSCA State Office by **March 25**. Please consider running as a candidate to represent your region of Virginia at the state level. With your help and leadership, the Virginia Student Councils Advisory Committee can continue to provide leadership opportunities throughout the state.

It's Not Too Late to Get Other Schools Involved in VSCA!

Many of you reading this letter already recognize the benefits of membership in the Virginia Student Councils Association. Perhaps you are like me, and as an SCA advisor you have seen your student leaders improve as leaders through their involvement in VSCA activities. Maybe you are a student leader who has made great memories at the annual VSCA Convention. Since you have benefitted from VSCA, I would encourage you to “adopt a school” to join and become active in VSCA. Pick a neighboring school or a feeder school. Encourage them to join VSCA and tell them how it has benefitted your school and your SCA. Your positive outreach and encouragement could get them involved in VSCA and could quite possibly revolutionize the student leaders at their school.

UPDATE: REGIONAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

Three Regional Leadership Workshops were held by schools serving on the VSCA Advisory Committee in the month of January. These leadership workshops gave students throughout Virginia the opportunity to enhance their skills for successfully running their student councils. If you missed out on workshops this year, please make plans to attend these regional workshops when they are offered next year. These events really get students ready for the VSCA Convention.

Here is a brief synopsis of what took place at those leadership workshops:

- **Region 2: Grassfield HS, January 8th**
 - Over 75 students and advisers attended
 - Opportunities to learn parliamentary procedure
 - Service projects and ideas for icebreakers were presented
 - The featured guest speaker was the Major League Baseball player Michael Cuddyer of the Minnesota Twins

- **Region 4: Woodgrove HS, January 8th**
 - Over 80 students and advisers attended
 - Collected books to donate to a local book drive
 - Sessions featuring equity, inclusion and service were a few of the offerings at this workshop

- **Region 1: Prince George HS/Hopewell HS, January 29th**
 - Over 100 students and advisers attended
 - Had a skit about parliamentary procedure
 - Had a mock pep rally where spirit games were modeled

School Spotlights

#1: Tuckahoe Middle School (Henrico Division)

Valentine's Fund Raiser

The Tuckahoe Middle School SCA sells lip lollipops each year right before Valentine's Day. The lollipops come in eight sweet flavors and eight sour flavors. The sour ones seem to sell a little better at this school. Lollipops are sold each morning at the bus loop for one dollar each, and students can an extra dollar to have one delivered. Students fill out a form to be sent to their special Valentine and turn it in when they pay for the delivery. Each year this school has had to order more and more, as the

fundraiser has been very successful. This year the SCA raised over \$1,000 dollars just by selling lip lollipops, and they have more to sell at their Glow in the Dark Disco dance.

#2: York High School (York Division)

The Make-A-Wish Project

One of the most-loved projects throughout the year is the Make-A-Wish Project in early to mid-December. All students, teachers, and faculty fill out small slips of paper indicating their schedule throughout the day and a wish that they would like granted. Of course it is asked that wishes be kept reasonable -- no cars, houses, or other items the SCA would be unable to afford. The other stipulation is that wishes be specific -- if you want lunch from Subway, you must indicate what you want on your sub, what kind of bread, etc. After the wish slips are handed out and collected again, a temporary Make-A-Wish committee is formed to sort through the wishes. Any wishes that are out of the question are thrown out (a million dollars and so on), and the remaining wishes are sorted into categories like food, flowers, and a category for everything else (fuzzy socks, pencils, or other similar items). The committee then decides which wishes they want to grant based on how much money it will cost and how difficult it will be to grant. The goal is to grant a wide variety of wishes throughout the school body, with a roughly equal number going to each grade and with a good number going to teachers and staff. The committee is in charge of buying the gifts or otherwise arranging the granting of wishes, and the SCA reimburses anyone who buys an item.

Committee members deliver the gifts throughout the two weeks of wish granting. Pictures are taken of the recipients with their gifts for the yearbook and the weekly newscast for the school. The project is lots of fun for the school, and people are always surprised when their wish gets granted. Though the project is still fairly new, over the past couple of years people have gotten very creative with their wishes. Wishes for cookies for the whole class are popular because many people benefit, and off-the-wall wishes that are still plausible are often granted. The SCA has granted wishes for 100 pennies, Chick-Fil-A, and generally grants wishes for at least the principal or one of the vice principals. The project is easy to get started, and is a fun way to boost school morale before everyone goes off on Winter Break!

Holiday Project:

On December 23, 2010, the SCA held a very special event called the Holiday Project, along with students from the elementary schools in York County. Jessica Lee, the Service Chairperson of York's SCA, coordinated a day in which all the students would meet together and make heartwarming goody bags for police officers and firemen who were faithfully working on Christmas Eve. Each school was assigned certain products they would bring (i.e. peppermint patties, hot chocolate mix, and snacks) to put in the goody bags as a thank-you for the recipients' hard work. During school on the 23rd, the students met at York High and participated in an icebreaker in order to familiarize themselves with one another and break the tension. Each student then wrote a personalized card and decorated it according to the Christmas/winter theme. After the bags were filled and the cards were written, the members enjoyed eating pizza for lunch and socializing with one another, discussing SCA event ideas, and exchanging advice. Jessica then sent the gift bags to the workers, who happily received them on the blissful night of Christmas Eve.

Dodgeball Tournament

The annual Dodgeball Tournament at YHS is sponsored by the SCA and takes place on a half-day in the spring. The event, which occurs in the gym and is free to attend, encourages lots of people to come and eat the food that is being sold! Outside the gym, food is sold by the classes and the SCA sells drinks. Typically the seniors sell hotdogs and hamburgers, the juniors sell candy, the sophomores sell nachos and chips, and the freshman do a bake sale with cookies and other items. Food is sold as students leave the school so those who do not stay for the tournament can still support the classes and SCA by buying something.

The tournament starts about 20 minutes after school lets out. Teams of no more than 8 and no less than 5 sign up in the weeks prior for an entrance fee of \$10. They are encouraged to come up with a creative team name, and then to dress accordingly at the tournament. Every member must have their parent's permission to play, and that permission must be received prior to the date of the tournament. As teams arrive at the gym where the event is held, they sit and await their first bracket. The SCA designs the brackets and then updates them throughout the tournament. There is a winning bracket and a losing bracket to increase the amount of time the teams get to play. Ultimately there are two teams who battle it out for the final prize: \$100 to be split among the members, funded by the entrance fees of all the teams. The event is a great success because it is free to attend, yet each grade and the SCA make a considerable profit from food sales.

Logistics involved in hosting the tournament include scheduling the event on a half-day (usually a day interims come out) and booking the gym to use as a facility. Referees are usually the gym teachers, though they need to be asked well in advance, and the balls and boundary cones need to be borrowed from the gym department as well. The rules of the game are given to each team when they sign up so everyone is on the same page. Finally, with the right advertising, the event becomes a huge, fun, success for YHS, and it probably would work well for any other school too!

#3: Liberty High School (Bedford Division)

Becca's Closet in Bedford:

"Becca's Closet" was started by 16-year-old Rebecca Kirtman, a South Florida high school student. In her sophomore year at Nova High School, Rebecca launched a dress bank providing formal dresses to high school girls wanting to attend their prom, but who did not have the resources to purchase them. Becca managed to collect over 250 prom dresses, and many girls across South Florida were able to attend their high school prom in style.

"Little things can make a big difference..." was the phrase that served as the driving force behind this caring young woman. Becca Kirtman died in a tragic automobile accident in August of 2003. Today Becca's family and friends, along with countless other volunteers, carry on her dream of helping people.

Becca's closet has come to Bedford throughout the help of the Liberty High School SCA and is currently one of a few chapters in the Commonwealth. With prom season quickly approaching, the Liberty SCA is offering help to schools in the Bedford, Roanoke, Botetourt, Franklin, Henry, Nelson, Pittsylvania, and Patrick County areas. The SCA

hopes to distribute more gowns to deserving young women than last year.

For more information about Becca's Closet visit www.beccascloset.org or contact Liberty High School in Bedford.

Reaching Out

Reaching out is a section of the newsletter which features service projects. Here is a sampling of projects from the Web. In order for this section to be successful, students and advisers need to share their ideas with the VSCA Director at mnelson@scaleader.org.

1. Seniors Say Thanks!

Every year the seniors at this high school get an opportunity to say thanks to any staff member in the district. It is a chance for students to reflect upon their experiences from K-12 and to acknowledge those who are underappreciated, those who have had a positive influence, and so on. Seniors are given either a die-cut apple or a blank card on which to write their note of appreciation. These notes are then delivered to the appropriate recipient. This project provides a good reflective period for students, it helps teachers feel appreciated for what they do, and it recognizes underappreciated staff members, such as janitors, for all the hard work they do to create a safe and clean learning environment

2. Project Crash

This project was a simulation of a drunken driving accident performed by members of the Student Council, local police, fire department, and EMS. The school resource officer, an assistant principal, and the SCA adviser organized the event. The junior and senior classes were brought to the football stadium just before junior and senior prom. Two damaged vehicles were set up as if they were involved in a head-on collision. Four student council members played the role of prom-goers who were on their way to an after-prom party. In the second vehicle, two staff members and a student council member played the role of a family. The driver of the student vehicle acted as the "drunk driver". His front seat passenger was sprawled on the hood of the car, dead from going through the windshield. The two backseat passengers were injured. In the second vehicle, a staff member pretended to be unconscious from the accident. In the next few minutes, police, paramedics, and the fire trucks all raced onto the field. Each of the responders acted if this was the real thing. The driver was handcuffed and taken away, injured students were helped by EMS, and the unconscious staff member flown away in a life flight helicopter. The final moments of the re-enactment had our deceased student placed in a body bag and driven away by a hearse. All of this was done to remind students of the dangers of drinking and driving before their respective proms.

3. Working for Neglected Children

For nine years, one high school has held an annual Spirit Week to raise money for local charities. This year the SCA chose to raise money for an emergency shelter for abused and neglected children. Since 2009 the shelter has experienced dramatic budget cuts and has turned away children because of lack of space and staff.

During the summer of 2009, student council members started planning spirit week events. As the school year progressed and the month of February approached, students worked tirelessly to ensure that everything was in place. To promote the week of fundraising, members created a website and sent letters to local businesses. On February 5, 2010, students kicked off the week with a "Lock In" held at a local church. Our 4th Annual Stampede for Hope, a 5K in honor of a dedicated citizen, was a success despite the weather. On Sunday, the SCA hosted a Senior Citizens Valentine's Dance where guests enjoyed line dancing, punch, and appetizers. Throughout the week, students organized and participated in over ten events. Classic events such as the Talent Show and Battle of the Bands were accompanied by several new events, like The Mr. High School Pageant and Prom Fashion Show.

On February 15, 2010 at our rival varsity basketball game, students and spectators gathered as SCA members revealed a check for a large amount of money. It was an amazing end to an amazing week.

4. Wing Bowl

This project raised over \$700 for the men and women serving our country in the US Marines. The money was donated to a group that sends packages to members of the community who are serving in combat zones. The event was suggested by a former SCA member who is currently serving in the Marines, and was held during the 2010 Spring Pep Rally so that the entire school and staff would be present to enjoy the show. Students interested in competing for the title of "Chicken Wing Eating Champion" signed up and received a bucket to collect donations. After one week, the eight students or staff members with the most money raised were invited to be in the actual event, while the rest were thanked for their contributions. Each of the eight contestants had the opportunity to have an entourage, a group of 10 friends to cheer them and help make a big entrance.

After all the contestants and entourages made their scene, the competition began. There were two five-minute eating periods, in which the eight people ate as many chicken wings as possible, being sure to clear the bone completely. Student Council members then sifted through the bones (using gloves of course) and counted each contestant's total - the winner ate 46 wings in 10 minutes! This event was for a great cause and the whole school really got into the contest as they watched fellow students and staff members stuff their faces with wings!

5. Serve The Soldiers

This middle school project was developed, planned, and implemented by students to bring together the school community to serve those who serve our country overseas. One soldier from the area contacted the school SCA and informed them that his unit was desperately in need of some reminders of home. What began as a discussion about this letter by a small group of students became "Serve The Soldiers", in which the Student Council collected various personal items for the men and women of his army unit and then shipped them overseas. After some research, the primary items collected were puzzles, games, balls, socks, gloves, non-perishable snacks, books, and especially letters or cards. In organizing this project and collecting these items, students and faculty not only gained a personal appreciation for the service provided by the young men and women of our military, but directly established a personal connection to the servicemen and servicewomen of this unit and extended dedication to service beyond the boundaries of their school and local community.

6. Bullying Stops Here

For this project promoting anti-bullying in the community, students wore pink in support of saying that the BULLYING STOPS HERE. This event took place on Wednesday, October 20, 2010 during Spirit Week. The Student Council sold pink t-shirts to high school students and the entire district staff. The teachers took a tally during first block of how many students were wearing pink in each grade, and the grade with the highest amount of participation pink won points. The Student Council went to the middle school to speak to the students the day before, in which each homeroom had two students initiate a discussion about anti-bullying. The students were given a handout to lead the discussion and then discussed where bullying occurs, how it can be prevented, and who is involved in a bullying situation. The middle school principal was very pleased with the results, and then reminded the students to wear pink the next day. This event also prompted many discussions in classrooms throughout the entire district and there was a sea of pink in the hallways.

7. Earth Day Outdoor Classroom

This project was started as a joint effort between the Student Council and Future Farmers of America (FFA), and was completed with the help of the wood shop classes. The "outdoor classroom" was created in a wooded area behind the teachers' parking lot and includes a walking path for Science classes to observe and identify various types of animal and plant life. Wood shop classes designed and built benches, as well as a teacher's podium, while Student Council and FFA members cleared debris and laid down the paths to this new classroom. The local community also became involved in this project. The owner of a local winery brought his tractor and auger to drill the needed holes for installing the benches and podium, while a retired fire chief helped students line up the benches into the correct holes and tamp them in with stone. Some alumni also helped in collecting logs for the wood chipper and then using the chips to create the path to and from this new outdoor classroom. All of this took place in only ONE DAY, and proved that students in different organizations could come together to benefit the school and community.

7. Haitian Earthquake Relief Fundraiser

This project was in response to last year's earthquake in Haiti, a devastating tragedy with ramifications echoing within one high school and throughout its' sending district. Awed by the extent of the destruction and motivated to help because of the large Haitian population within the school, the Student Council decided to direct its efforts towards organizing a massive, community-wide fundraising effort. It reached out to other clubs, including Key Club, and the school's Haitian American Club (CHACA), among others, in a concentrated approach to collect donations throughout the school and the community. By advertising on the local cable TV channel, the effort was publicized in surrounding towns, encouraging their communities to join this effort. Charity events, such as an Open Mic Night, were held and made open to all so that the community would be invited into the school to support the cause. The overall result was a donation of more than \$9,000 to Partners in Health, a leading organization in the Haitian Earthquake Relief effort. The outcome of this project surprised and amazed many, but there was never a doubt about the power of a community working together to help others in need. The Student Council was gratified by and so appreciative of the participation across the school district.

Spirit Links

Spirit Links is a section of the newsletter which features school spirit projects. Here is a sampling of projects from the Web. In order for this section to be successful, students and advisers need to share their ideas with the VSCA Director at mnelson@scaleader.org.

1. Homecoming Parade!

This year one Student Council decided that they should try something new. They decided to have a Homecoming Parade. They had different organizations sign up to be in the parade and each organization could make its own float. Pretty soon there were 30 to 40 floats, which was great given that the school is located in an extremely small community. The parade was held on the Friday night of the Homecoming Game and Homecoming Dance. The parade started about an hour after school so people could get their floats perfected in that time. (Note: The streets were already closed due to construction, so there were no complications.) After the parade the Homecoming football game started. Right after the football game there was an outside dance on a blacktop (cars were used to serve as a fence). During the dance the SCA took up the opportunity for some fundraising. They sold glow stick necklaces and bottles of water at the dance and sold out of the glow sticks because they were such a big hit! The school spirit was higher at this Homecoming event than it's ever been!

2. Feed the Team

At every school, football season is a big deal and a busy time. One school's players and coaches worked hard during the summer and fall to bring home a victory. How do you thank them for this dedication and show them your appreciation? One Student Council did that with "Feed the Team."

The SCA adviser coordinated with the coaching staff for a date and the council ordered submarine sandwiches, purchased fruit, and called the school's Pepsi sponsor and got drinks donated for this event. The players and coaches enjoyed a dinner and fellowship before one of the away games while the Student Council members served them and wished them luck in the game.

Student Council members worked very hard to clean the cafeteria area, iced down the drinks, and coordinated the delivery of the food items. The team and coaches seemed very appreciative and they did bring home the win!

3. Mini-Pep Rallies

Many student councils nationwide show appreciation toward the athletic teams at their school by performing pep rallies that help boost the students' school pride and recognition toward the season's sport. Because of mandated seat time for academics, pep rallies are limited to one per season at some schools. The students at one particular high school thought that the athletic teams deserved more support from the school. The Student Council took on this challenge and created "mini-pep rallies" performed on the days that a sport had a major game. On game day, the Student Council collaborated with their own spirit team. The mini-pep rallies were held during lunch. To meet the needs of the diverse student population, the Student Council decided to change locations each time to impact more students.

As an example, at the beginning of one mini-pep rally, the spirit team drew the attention of the students by entering the area in two trucks blaring music. After gaining the crowd's attention, the Student Council informed the audience of the game that night and the tailgating event taking place before that event. The crowd was then entertained with games and dancing activities. These events ranged from a marshmallow eating contest to a shaving balloon race. Every mini-pep rally performance brought students another step toward the overall goal of increasing school spirit.

4. Buff Puff Chapin High School

The girls get Powder Puff and the boys get Buff Puff! Like the idea of Powder Puff which involves girls playing football, Buff Puff is an activity in which the boys play volleyball. And it's all for charity!

To play Buff Puff, each team of eight boys pays a certain amount of dues in order to play and compete. They also get t-shirts. For a fee, other students can watch the games and buy their own t-shirt. Proceeds from the games are donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Palmetto Place, non-profit organizations that run on

donations. Buff Puff is just one way we raise money to support them.

Preliminary games are played in a best two out of three in a bracket format. The winners of each side of the bracket play in a championship. The winners are then crowned Buff Puff Champions! But it is not over, they then have to play the Girls' Varsity Volleyball team and a faculty team made up of teachers. Both of these games are played during an assembly that students have to pay admission to attend. Again, all money goes to charity. Over all, Buff Puff is an event every student looks forward to!

5. Mr. High School

This project is a mock beauty pageant for senior males held each May. Contestants compete in casual wear, talent, swim wear, and formal wear. After formal wear, six finalists are selected who then compete in a question/answer segment. The second runner-up receives half-off a tux rental, the first runner-up receives a free tux rental, and Mr. High School receives a crown and cloak, free prom tickets, and a free tux rental. The contestants themselves vote on a "Mr. Congeniality", who receives a one-month membership at a local gym.

Advertising for contestants and emcees begins in March, and auditions are held in April to select them. Teachers judge the competition and over the past four years there has been a "celebrity" judge each year. Contestants and emcees rehearse after school for several afternoons prior to the event. Student Council members make a program for the show, purchase food and beverages for refreshment sales, order roses for contestants to give their escorts during the formal wear segment, select a DJ, organize judges' packets, and order favors for the runner-ups and winner. On the day of the event, Student Council members work throughout the day to sell tickets for the show, set up the auditorium, create a backdrop banner, set up refreshment sales, work the curtains, lights, and take care of any last minute details that are needed. During the event Student Council members sell tickets and refreshments, distribute programs, and ensure that every aspect of the show runs smoothly. After the show Student Council members clean up and store any leftover supplies in the Student Council closet. The week after Mr. High School, the Student Council watches a video of the show and enjoys talking about what went well and what should be done to improve for the following year.

Dollar Signs

Dollar Signs is a section of the newsletter which features fundraising projects. Here is a sampling of projects from the Web. In order for this section to be successful, students and advisers need to share their ideas with the VSCA Director at mnelson@scaleader.org.

1. Winter Olympics Fundraiser

Every year during the cold month of January, one High School hosts its very own Winter Olympics. selected that can be played indoors. This SCA used kickball, basketball, and volleyball. Student pa play. There are about 10 teams for each sport. The teams get to pick their name and their member

The teams play each other in 15-minute games. Then the SCA narrows the teams down by eliminat wins and they become Tiger Olympians (Tigers were this school's mascot) Everyone that participat medals and the winners get prizes. If your school allows, try selling tickets to the games to earn mo this SCA earned went to charity.

2. Bunnies for Money

During these hard economic times fundraising is no easy task. One Student Council sold World's Finest Chocolate for the past several years to raise funds, but that did not go over as well this year, so they started to look at other options. That's when they came across the idea of Easter Bunnies. The reputation of World's Finest Chocolate, coupled with the community need to have this seasonal treat seemed t need made for a great fundraising idea.

Student Council members each agreed to sell ten bunnies at a cost of \$5 apiece. They thought it would take a month to sell all 300 bunnies, but they were wrong. Within four days of receiving their order they were sold out! In just four days they were able to raise \$750 in "bunny money."

These funds will go toward their operating costs for the next year so they can order Student Council t-shirts and keep their dues at a reasonable level. Since this fundraiser was such a success, students have agreed to do it again next year and try to break the \$1,000 mark.

3. Lip Sync

This project has been an annual tradition for this middle school since the 2007-2008 school year. Last year they raised approximately \$3,500 for a charity. The Lip Sync is an entertaining evening show where students perform a song of their choice and prepare a choreographed dance routine. This event involves a two-month long process, beginning with a group application process and song selections. After student groups, and traditionally one teacher group, have been formed, the Student Council hosts try-outs, begins the process of advertising for the event in the school and throughout the community, and creates a much anticipated t-shirt design. Students spend countless hours practicing their routines, designing outfits and costumes, and then finally putting on a fantastic show on the big night.

This event is one of the most anticipated evenings of the year. This fundraiser generates profits through ticket sales, group application fees, and t-shirt sales. Perhaps more importantly, this event generates school spirit and creates a positive and enthusiastic school atmosphere of teamwork, appreciation of hard work, and

working towards a common goal to raise money for a good cause.

Advice for Student Leaders and Advisers: What do we need to succeed and How do we know if we succeeded?

These are two excellent questions. To answer the questions I have provided two sample forms in this newsletter that may help. The first form is a project planning form. In order to know what to do, you must have an effective plan. This project planning form is a helpful checklist for getting a clear handle on the task at hand.

The second form provided is an evaluation form. You may think that you have succeeded in accomplishing your task...but how do you know for sure? This form is a good way to evaluate the outcome of an activity or project. Students and the adviser should complete these and compare notes. An efficient Student Council, built upon on-going achievement, maintains a record of these evaluation documents.

Project Planning Form

Project Goal _____

Let's Clear it:

SCA Adviser _____ School Calendar _____ Administration _____

Let's Publicize it:

Posters _____ Daily Announcements _____ Electronic Media _____

Let's Get it done:

Budget _____ Purchase Orders _____ Job Assignments _____

Let's Make a Time Line.

Let's Get Help.

Custodial _____ Faculty Supervision _____ Parent Supervision _____

Let's Get the Equipment.

Table/Chairs _____ Podium _____ PA System _____ Lights _____
Cashbox _____ Laptop and LCD Projector _____

Let's Get Supplies.

Scissors _____ Tape _____ Glue _____ Markers _____

Let's Clean it Up.

Take Down _____ Pickup _____ Put Away Supplies _____
Return Equipment _____ Restore Rooms _____ Clean Up _____
Lights Out _____ Doors Locked _____
Computer Equipment Off _____

Let's Give Credit.

Thank you notes _____ Prizes _____ Recognition _____
School Newspaper Article _____

Project Evaluation Form

Project Name _____

Date _____ Time _____ Place _____

Committee Members:

Project Goal: _____

Was Goal attained? If so, how? If not, why not? _____

Organization	Yes	No	Comments
A Group Effort	_____	_____	_____
Adequate Planning	_____	_____	_____
Effective Publicity	_____	_____	_____
Faculty Support	_____	_____	_____
Student Reaction	_____	_____	_____
Acceptable Behavior	_____	_____	_____
Attendance	Good	Fair	Poor

Feedback from Students _____

Unexpected Challenges _____

Successes and Failures _____

Income _____ Expenses _____ Profits _____

Materials and Equipment Sources _____

Quotes to Inspire

"We should not look back unless it is to derive useful lessons from past errors, and for the purpose of profiting by dearly bought experience."

George Washington

"Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other."

Abraham Lincoln

"Do your little bit of good where you are; its those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

Desmond Tutu

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do."

Helen Keller

"The greatest day in your life and mine is when we take total responsibility for our attitudes. That's the day we truly grow up."

John C. Maxwell

"Leadership is influence."

John C. Maxwell

"Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people."

Eleanor Roosevelt

And finally...

Please continue to send in your great ideas so we can share all the wonderful activities of great student leaders with student councils throughout the state. Please submit ideas to Mike Nelson, VSCA Director at mnelson@scaleader.org, and I will try to get as many ideas as possible in our monthly newsletters.

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