**Future Education and Environment Grant**— The division has received a grant from the state to plan a new instructional model that will bring students closer in their learning to the needs of future employers. The $20,000 grant is part of the Commonwealth’s Future Education and Environment Development (FEED) initiative, recently approved by the General Assembly to support innovative education practices in public schools. The division will use funds to support pilot projects at each comprehensive high school, along with the charter high school. The projects include: greater diversity and choice in the places where students learn and in the technologies they use; increasing opportunities for learning outside of the classroom and in the broader community; more accessible transportation options for moving students between schools and community learning sites and enhanced professional development for teachers to enable them to take full advantage of contemporary learning resources.

**Ron Brown Scholarship Recipient**—Monticello High School senior Sean Means was selected as a Ron Brown Scholar for his academic achievement and dedication to community service. The nation’s leading scholarship program for African-American youth received more than 5,000 applications this year; only 26 were awarded the honor, and Sean is the only recipient in Virginia. Sean will use the four year, $40,000 scholarship to attend Stanford next year, where he plans to study political science and international relations. Sean is also traveling to Chicago to compete in a national debate tournament.

**School Calendar Update**— Based in part upon the views of community members who responded to the recent survey on inclement weather makeup dates, the Board considered adding makeup dates to next year’s school calendar instead of relying solely on an extension of the school year. After receiving public comment at the May business meeting, the Board adopted a 2014-2015 school calendar that includes inclement weather makeup dates as follows: January 20, February 16, April 3, and June 8 and 9.

**Principal Retirement**—After twenty-five years of service to the county, Baker-Butler Elementary School principal David Cushman will be retiring this summer. During his time with the division, Mr. Cushman has served as an elementary teacher at three schools—Crozet, Yancey, and Meriwether Lewis, along with working as an administrator at Hollymead and Stony Point Elementary Schools. Baker-Butler was a three-time recipient of the state Board of Education’s Award for Performance Excellence during Mr. Cushman’s tenure. The search process for a new principal is now underway, and will include an opportunity for community input.

**Summer Fine Arts Academy**—Registration is now open for the new Summer Fine Arts Academy that will be held at Burley Middle School during the week of July 21-25. The Academy will offer sessions in art, creative writing, dance, drama, choir, and jazz band from 9 a.m. until noon each day; art students will have an option of adding three hours to their sessions and ending their day at 3 p.m. The new academy will follow the model of the highly successful Summer Jazz Camp, which has been held at Burley the previous two years. Academy students will receive concentrated instruction in selected areas that will include outside artists and will have the ability to work with students in multi-age groups. The Academy will be self-sustaining, with all costs supported by registration fees.

**Golden Apple Award Recipients**— Teachers from each of the division’s 26 schools received awards as part of the Golden Apple regional program sponsored by Better Living Building Supply and Better Living Furniture. The Golden Apple program recognizes teacher performance excellence and curriculum innovations in county and city
public and private schools. Four of these teachers received a $1,000 grant for instructional materials and classroom supplies: Jamie Beeler, Claudia Bendick, Natalie Capps, and Pat Harder. In addition to this year’s winners, two previous Golden Apple recipients each received a $1,000 21st Century grant to support their innovative classroom projects: Lani Hoza, who teaches Advanced Placement Psychology at Western Albemarle High School, and Richard Lindsay, a world history teacher at Albemarle High School.

**Phi Delta Kappa Awards**—The University of Virginia’s Phi Delta Kappa annually awards educators in the region who best represent the chapter’s principles of research, leadership and service. This year, in an unusual development, all of the winners came from Albemarle County Public Schools: Julie Lindenbaum, outstanding elementary school teacher from Hollymead; Janet Webster, outstanding secondary school teacher from Burley; Rachel McElroy, outstanding first year teacher award from Walton. Agnor-Hurt principal Michele Del Gallo Castner was the overwhelming choice for the Alton L. Taylor Leadership Award, and Sarah Vrhovac of Albemarle High School, who will pursue a college degree in education, was the recipient of the Rutrough Education Scholarship.

**Visit from Anne Holton**—Anne Holton, the state Secretary of Education, spent time with division staff and students during her visit to Charlottesville to speak at the annual Chamber luncheon. Secretary Holton toured the career and technical education classrooms at Sutherland Middle School and used the telegraph re-engineered by students through a partnership with the Smithsonian Institute. Following the luncheon, Secretary Holton visited the Health and Medical Sciences Academy at Monticello High School, which is a Governor’s Academy.

**Rowing State Titles**—Two county high school teams won state championships in rowing and are headed to Princeton, New Jersey for the national competition. Albemarle High School’s co-ed team and Western Albemarle’s Girls team earned their titles at the state competition earlier this month, held in Occoquan, Virginia. Team members also participated in a national invitational event in Philadelphia in May.

School Board website:  www.k12albemarle.org