Introduction
by Abigail Flanders

To the parents and guardians of Governor’s School students:

We hope that as life at Gov School has begun to settle into a routine, you have gotten the chance to connect with your student here at Radford. Although the initial buzz of settling in has died down, there are still plenty of exciting things happening on campus—perhaps more than any one student can recount—and it is our goal to keep you apprised of the many activities that have been filling our time. In this issue of The Gov School Gazette, you will have the opportunity to read about classes, lectures, a dance, and more—just a few of the many wonderful things going on at Governor’s School.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,
The Students of Newsletter Committee 2
Classroom Spotlight: Superheroes
by Andy Monroe

One of the classes offered to students in the Humanities program is a class entitled “Superheroes: Myths, Morals, Power, and Responsibility.” This class seeks to delve deeper into the realm of superheroes and look past “muscle-y dudes in capes punching each other.” The past week, students in this class have learned about the three main theories of ethics: Utilitarianism, Deontology, and Virtue Ethics. They then applied these theories to problems and dilemmas faced by superheroes in comics, movies, and video games. Students also examined notable examples of each of these theories within the superhero genre. They even got to use what they learned to analyze several episodes of the 1960’s Batman television show (this version of Batman is one of the best examples of Virtue Ethics in the superhero genre). Students have also been split into small groups in which they are working on creating their very own superhero, complete with powers and a costume, a backstory, and even a sworn nemesis.

VPA Spotlight: Theatre
by Abigail Flanders

Here at Governor’s School, the theatre program is unique in that each group of students cycles through a new set of classes each week, learning the many different skills that a well-rounded thespian needs. These classes are not limited just to acting technique, but cover a wide variety of topics such as tech, design, improv, script analysis, and audition skills. This setup means that theatre students have an incredibly busy and ever-changing schedule, but, as one student noted, “you’re learning something from every area... I’ve learned so much here; more than I could have possibly imagined that I’d learn within a month.” With each student taking a total of 12 classes over the course of the month, everyone in the program will emerge with experience in many different theatrical areas. At the end of Governor’s School, the theatre department will put on a final showcase.

Let the Rains Come Fourth
by Holden Anderson

When you hear “Fourth of July,” magic and torrential downpours typically don’t come to mind, but that’s how Governor’s School spent the day. In the morning we were supposed to have “Gov Games,” a fierce field day style competition between students and counselors alike. Unfortunately, the rain was the ultimate victor. Not all fun was cancelled, however. In the afternoon, magician Sean Watson gave an astounding performance. He demonstrated sleight of hand and card tricks such as making someone’s card materialize inside of a lemon and making granulated sugar materialize in someone’s
sweatshirt sleeve. When the students emerged from the dark auditorium, they were met with a surprising sight - sunlight.

Since the weather appeared to be cooperating, the students were shuttled over to Bisset Park at 7 PM for a festival and fireworks. Soon after arrival, thunder was heard and the fireworks were begun preemptively. To avoid possible lightning strikes, all 400 students and counselors took refuge under an undersized picnic awning, which somewhat obstructed the view of the fireworks, but the adults in charge of our safety subscribe to a conservative school of thought called “Safety First.” Parents, rest assured that we are in good care. When it was deemed safe to emerge from the shelter, we were able to catch the second half of the fireworks show. The rain even decided to briefly pause. However, right as students were waiting for the shuttle back to campus, a truly torrential downpour commenced. Once off the shuttles, students made a mad dash back to their dorms, although some dawdled to jump in puddles. Overall, it was a Fourth of July that students are bound to remember.

Evening Events
by Gwendolyn Rak

This week, the packed days of Gov School students extended into the evenings for three consecutive nights. Between Wednesday and Friday, both VPA and Humanities students attended speeches from a Black Lives Matter activist and a British television producer, as well as Gov School’s second Open Mic Night.

On Wednesday evening, a member of the Black Lives Matter movement, Nyle Fort, presented to the Gov. School community on issues of racism in today’s society. Like Delegate Sam Rasoul’s speech earlier in the month, Fort began by talking about his experiences—or as he called it, “putting food on the table”—before he opened up the discussion with a Q&A and invited everyone to share a figurative “meal.” While students arrived at the mandatory event begrudgingly, by the end of the night the entire audience begged program director Dr. Paul Thomas to let the event go longer than the allotted two hours. Fort was able to engage every student in the
audience—perhaps because of his background in ministry—and he began a conversation that has been continued in dorms, classrooms, and even a forum taking place today.

Anthony Waldron, a British television producer and director, visited on Thursday night. His presentation gave the students a break from politics by speaking about his career path, which was of interest to many students here at Gov School. Waldron outlined how he came to where he is now, emphasizing the importance of networking and perseverance. He also spoke about the sacrifices he had to make and how his hobby of magic helped his career. Although some of the tips he gave were more specific to the television industry, much of Waldron's advice could be applied more generally to careers in the arts or entertainment industry.

On Friday, Gov School had its second weekly Open Mic Night. There were 28 performances—almost twice as many as last week—and each one was fantastic. This week there was a wide range of performances, including instrumental pieces, monologues, poetry, dances, covers of popular music, broadway songs, comedy, and even an original song. The event was recorded, and CDs are available for purchase if you would like to see your child’s performance.

Student Surveys
by Holden Anderson

Though this newsletter is written from the perspective of four humanities students, we aim to thoroughly represent the whole of Governor’s School. To give a more comprehensive depiction of student experience here, we decided to take a few polls. The following graphs show students' favorite activities from this past week and which meal students believe Dalton, the dining hall, does best.
The Weekend

by Gwendolyn Rak

For the first time since Gov School began, students had three days almost entirely to themselves last weekend. Without the pressure of classes, they were free to sleep all day (apart from the check-ins), attend counselor-sponsored workshops and activities, study, or hang out with new friends on the quad. Several groups went on day trips to Mountain Lake, which offers a ropes course and archery tag, and Claytor Lake, a traditional lake with a lovely beach. However, with over four hundred students here, not everyone was able to participate in those activities last weekend. Additional trips will take place over the course of the remaining weekends at Gov School. One of the few weekend events everyone attended was the Decades Dance on Saturday night. Students dressed in the style of decades ranging from the 270s B.C.E. (togas were really in style back then) to the 2010s (C.E.), although most of the music was modern. Other weekend activities included Muggle Quidditch (Go Ravenpuff!), trips to Walmart, and a Saturday-morning excursion to the Radford Farmer’s Market. Although students could relax all weekend, there was no shortage of exciting activities to occupy their time.
Lectures
by Abigail Flanders

This past Tuesday, students from both the Humanities and VPA programs were given the opportunity to attend a lecture on *The Politics of Personal Privacy and Identity Theft*, given by Radford University’s own Dr. Lucy Hochstein. In her talk, Dr. Hochstein addressed several issues that are relevant to all of our lives: the many ways in which companies record and trade our information, the United States’ relatively limited privacy laws, and the reality of identity theft today. After explaining these concepts to those in attendance, Dr. Hochstein went on to give practical advice on how to maintain personal privacy, and advised students to use caution before signing theirs away. Although many students thought that Hochstein’s concern for personal privacy was somewhat extreme, it was a valuable experience nonetheless.

Thank you for keeping up with the goings-on of the students here at Governor's School. The third and final weekly edition will be published on July 17th.