

# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

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The Commonwealth Governor's School  
12301 Spotswood Furnace Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22407  
Telephone 540-548-1278

## CGS Students Give Back to the Community

### Mark Your Calendars

January 2- 2017 CGS Applications Open  
January 9- CGS PTO Meeting, Central Rappahannock Public Library, 7:00 p.m.  
January 19- CGS Governing Board Meeting, Stafford SBO/Professional Development Suite 15, 4:00 p.m.  
January 28- 'I Survived First Semester' parent workshop, Salem Church Library, 2:45-4:00 p.m.



Keep Connected to CGS!

### CGS Website:

[www.cgsva.net/cgs/default.aspx](http://www.cgsva.net/cgs/default.aspx)

### CGS Blog

[cgscommunity.wordpress.com](http://cgscommunity.wordpress.com)

### Twitter

[CGS@CgsGovSchool](https://twitter.com/CGSGovSchool)

### Like us on

The Commonwealth Governor's School

Facebook page.

CGS students understand the spirit of giving in our community! In November, all six sites collected snacks for needy children across the region. Nine elementary schools in Stafford, Spotsylvania, King George, and Caroline counties received boxes of snacks.



Clarissa Price, a Junior at the Riverbend site, coordinated the 'Hounds of Hazelwild Fair' fundraiser to raise awareness of Greyhounds and Sighthounds in need of adoption. The Hazelwild Fair hosted community pet adoption organizations, local scout troops, and vendors. Proceeds went to a Greyhound and Sighthound adoption group.

In December, each site adopted a family in their school division for the holidays. CGS students collected

presents for children and parents as well as wrapping paper and gift cards. Kudos to Charlie Dileo from the Colonial Forge site who spearheaded the 'Angel Tree' project!



"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

## Project-Based Learning Reinforces Mastery

Portions of this article was extracted from the February 28, 2008 educational blog post, *Edutopia*

Project learning, also known as project-based learning, is a dynamic approach to teaching in which students explore real-world problems and challenges, simultaneously developing cross-curriculum skills while working in small collaborative groups

Because project-based learning is filled with active and engaged learning, it inspires students to obtain a deeper knowledge of the subjects they're studying. Research also indicates that students are more likely to retain the knowledge gained through this approach far more readily than through traditional textbook-centered learning. In addition, students develop confidence and self-direction as they move through both team-based and independent work.

Project learning is also an effective way to integrate technology into the curriculum. A typical project can easily accommodate computers and the Internet, as well as interactive whiteboards, global-positioning-system (GPS) devices, digital still cameras, video cameras, and associated editing equipment.

CGS supports project-based learning across the curriculum. During the first semester, ninth grade students in the AP Environmental Science (APES) class at the Spotsylvania site, created interactive games while using their APES concepts and vocabulary terms.



The science classes at the North Stafford created ornaments for their Winter Solstice tree which illustrated key concepts studied in the four Advanced Placement Science disciplines.



TELL ME AND I FORGET.  
TEACH ME AND I REMEMBER.  
INVOLVE ME AND I LEARN.  
- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN