



## NEWS, NOTES & NEEDS

An Update for Virginia Committee Members & Special Friends – 10 February, 2010

### Student Recruitment Strong

Headmaster Soule is having good success with student recruitment. Each event (that has not been snowed out) has been well attended. New applications are coming in daily. Interviews with families and students confirm that the Academy will attract outstanding young scholars. *Friends of the Fund* Community Partners including religious societies, community organizations and military service agencies are nominating outstanding “free scholars.” The first acceptance letters have already gone out the door.



### Tom Soule off to Boston

Tomorrow, Headmaster Soule will head to Boston where he will attend a two-day Carney Sandoe conference for faculty recruitment. Carney Sandoe is the nation’s leading search firm in placing highly qualified teachers and administrators in independent schools. (We are not sure if Tom is going to Boston to find great school masters, or just to enjoy their milder weather.)

### Richard Seltzer named Director of Finance and Administration

Richard E. Seltzer is the former Chairman and CEO of DPRA Incorporated, a 300 person, employee-owned technology and engineering consulting firm. He retired from DPRA in 2006 after thirty-two years with the Company. In 2008 he came out of retirement and joined Bentz Whaley Flessner, a philanthropic consulting firm, as the firm’s Executive Vice President. Due to the recession’s severe impact on Bentz Whaley Flessner, Mr. Seltzer re-retired in early 2009. Additionally from 1975 to 2002, Mr. Seltzer served in various capacities in the Kansas Air National Guard. He retired in 2002 with the rank of Colonel. Mr. Seltzer graduated from the University of Missouri (B.S. & M.S.) and Kansas State University (M.B.A.).

With just 209 days until the opening of school, Richard’s expertise in both finance and administration has already proven invaluable. In addition to handling our precious resources, Richard is working with the architects and the City of Alexandria to prepare our beautiful Main Hall for the fall.

### Washington’s Birthday – Come Celebrate with Us!

Due to the snow emergency, the City of Alexandria has announced the cancellation of the George Washington Birthday Celebration. This major outdoor event scheduled for the weekend of February 13, 14, and 15, is one of the nation’s premier civic festivities.



While it is very sad to miss this year's parade and events, invite your friends to join you for an Open House at the Academy from 5:30 to 7:30 PM on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February—Washington's 278<sup>th</sup> birthday. It will be a kid-friendly event with soda pop, birthday cake and balloons.

At 6:30 we will have a brief ceremony during which we dedicate the new schoolhouse and vest Thomas A. Soule as the Academy's first Headmaster. Representatives from George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens will be there to unveil a beautiful portrait of the Father of our Country, which is their gift to the new school. No RSVP is required. We want the whole town to come.

### **One Book, One Chair, One Student at a Time**

How can we create a premier independent school? It may not be easy, but it is simple! Great schools are built *One Book, One Chair and One Student at a Time*. Be looking for that theme as we prepare to announce **Alexandria Academy – The Campaign**. We are designing a very straightforward approach that is based on George Washington's remarkable commitment to the Academy.



When asked to become involved, Washington said YES. (And his “yes” meant “yes.”) Vowing “*to support the new institution as far as it is in my powers,*” he began by helping to defray the costs of the original building. Over the next several years, he provided full scholarships for several “poor and indigent” students. If that wasn't enough, we know from his meticulous household bookkeeping records that he also purchased Latin texts from England!

When George Washington prepared his *Last Will & Testament*, the Academy figured prominently. Writing the document in his “leisure” time and without legal counsel, Washington gave the Academy £1,000—an enormous sum at that time. He had already penned a letter to Thomas Jefferson about his intentions. He intended for Alexandria Academy to become a model for the new nation.

Will you, like Washington, say YES? Already, some have given a book, or a chair. Others have given larger gifts. To each of you—and you know who you are—I want to express my gratitude. To those of you who have not yet stepped forward, I beg your support at this critical time. Write a check to **Alexandria Academy** or give online at [www.fundforclassics.org](http://www.fundforclassics.org) Join Washington as a Founder of the Academy. Give at a level commensurate with your capacity. Help re-open the one school American actually *needs*.

- Yes, I *can* buy one book. (\$25)
- Yes, I *can* build one chair. (\$275)
- Yes, I *can* scholarship one student. (\$15,000)
- Yes, I *can* furnish one classroom. (\$30,000)
- Yes, I *can* hire one teacher. (\$50,000)
- Yes, I *can* match Washington's endowment. (\$200,000)
- Yes, I *can* purchase Main Hall on the historic site. (\$2 million)
- Yes, I *can* make a tax-deductable gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "T. Soule".

Rector & Founder

*Please electronically circulate this News & Notes to any and all who should join our cause.*