BIRTHDAY SALUTATIONS

When you see these Discovery alumni, students, or sponsors, give them a celebratory shot in the arm for the passing of another year:

In July, Baili Thomas ('98) on July 4; Robert Higginbotham ('04) on July 7; Jill Williams on July 11; Cameron Kemeys ('01) on July 17; Sam Storey ('97) and Taylor Eubank ('98) on July 18; and, Chris Lariviere ('97) on July 25.

In August, Sarah Wooten ('03) on August 3; Rory McClendon ('98) and Jennifer Jarrell ('03) on August 4; Jesse Horbett ('97), Jesse Biggs ('97), and Caroline Jeanes ('04) on August 6; Derek Richardson ('00) on August 8; David Morris ('00) on August 9; Rusty McWilliams ('03) on August 10; Andy Carey ('00) on August 12; Shelly Smart ('98) on August 13; Sarah Burleson ('00) on August 18; Justine Witzke ('99) on August 19; Daniel Auth ('03) on August 21; Lily Brookman ('02) on August 25; Rocky Meadows ('99) on August 26; Rosemary Hynes ('03) on August 27; Khia Pire ('00) and Shannon Merian ('02) on August 30; and, Lyn Colvin ('02) and Jeffrey Carey ('04) on August 31.

In September, Charlie Curry ('98) on September 1; Penn Mohrmann ('01) on September 3; Becca Mclwee ('99) on September 4; Laura Boersig ('98) on September 6; Ginifer Meadows ('01) on September 12; Briana Harris ('98) on September 14; Joe Gagliardi on September 16; Beth Haberland ('99) on September 20; Patrick Rave ('99) on September 21; Kristin Kahler on September 23; Megan Junghanns ('97) on September 25; Brian Wilson ('03) on September 27; and, Donnie Cason ('00) on September 30.

In October, Ellen Graves ('98) on October 4; Parker Newman ('00) and Liza Collins ('01) on October 10; Heather Rouleau ('99) and Tim Cudd ('01) on October 12; Krystal Yonts ('03) on October 15; Matt Powers ('97) and Tim Short ('98) on October 22; Josh Klim ('00) and Brentney Moore ('02) on October 27.

In November, Chelsea Gianniny ('03) on November 4; Matthew Randall ('02) on November 6; Jonathan Short ('97), Amanda Moore ('04), James Parker ('00), and Katie Wooten ('02) on November 8; Shawn West ('97) and Joel Ferraro ('03) on November 18; Bonnie Pendleton and Tenise Lawrence ('01) on November 28; Kevin Edwards ('02) on November 29.

In December, Joe Sanderson ('97) and Betsy Reid ('02) on December 4; Kellie Davies ('04) on December 5; Jessica Blake ('00) on December 7; Allison Honenenberger ('01) and Amanda Cantal on December 9; Michael Cote ('97) on December 10; Megan Lillard ('03) on December 15; David Wilkinson ('02), Justin LaBarge ('02), and Wyatt Pratt ('04) on December 19; Brittney Terrell ('03) on December 20; Jessica Silveri ('99) on December 24; Theo Haberland ('00) on December 25; Billy O’Steen and Maura Deluca ('02) on December 26; Eva Graves ('00) on December 28; and Claire Mink and Quentin Rowe ('04) on December 29.

AUTUMNAL COLORS:

Prospect Heights Middle School
200 Macon Street
Orange, Virginia 22960
540-661-4372
FAX: 540-661-4399

Memberships held by Discovery:
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
The Access Fund
Association of Experiential Education
Friends of the Rappahannock
International Mountain Bike Association

http://www.css-va.org/discovery
From navigating class IV rapids to pulling pots on a working crab boat, helping Head Start students to exploring underground mazes, the 2002-03 school year promises many learning adventures for the forty-eight students of Discovery Program. Twenty-four seventh graders were chosen from an application pool of ninety-three, adding new enthusiasm and excitement to the returning eighth graders.

In addition to over fifty wilderness outings, Discovery will also focus on hands-on learning in the Orange community. Eighth grade students will participate in an apprenticeship program with area businesses for elective credit. All students will be required to complete ten hours of community service work during the school year. Learning expeditions with the University of Virginia School of Architecture, a corporate manager of an organic coffee company in Costa Rica, and learning expeditions and projects with Sprockids, Jason Project, and a professional film maker will highlight our classroom instruction.

For a better peek at the outings and adventures of our year, please bookmark our new and updated website at: www.ocss-va.org/discovery

THE SEMESTER IN REVIEW
outing/expedition: high risk ropes course (8)
site: Poplar Ridge Experiential Learning and Training Center at the University of Virginia
date: September 10
student comments: “Doing the high ropes course getting up in the air and falling like I did. The Elvis Pelvis is the one that gave me the most trouble and doing the wooden ladder rope that I got to the seventh one and fell.” -- Rusty McWilliams ('03)

“I think I liked the ropes course the most because it was the one that I was the most afraid of. I’m normally not standing 60 ft. in the air with only a string under me. It helped me to accomplish or at least work on my fear of heights. I loved the zip-line at the end, that was like a dessert after a really horrifying dinner.” -- Chelsea Gianniny ('03)

“Test your limits”, a motto of the Outward Bound School, as it appears on their website. This simple phrase should be applied to any task whether big or small as a motivation to do you best. I learned the meaning of this phrase while enrolled in an outdoor related class in the eighth grade. The Discovery Program is a class designed to introduce students to new situations and activities while experiencing nature and the environment from a new perspective.

student comments: “Last week Discovery went to Poplar Ridge for our first trip of the year. We are still getting the hang of things, but everyone still did a fantastic job and tried their best to go as far as the could on the lower ropes course.

There is nothing low about this ropes course. We had to climb up a thirty foot monstrous pole. First we had to climb about five feet up a ladder, then the rest of the climb was oversized staples to the top. Once we got to the top there was a small circle that was probably only about a foot around. Most people were courageous enough to climb all the way up, but many people had a hard time standing. I was able to make it to the top of the pole, but once I got there I had a hard time standing up. While trying to get up, I slipped and fell off the pole.

I think everyone enjoyed themselves and had a good time. My favorite part was just climbing the pole. What a good way to start the year.” -- Braden Jones ('04)

“I remember the pamper toll trip the best. It brought us together. It helped the Discovery team to become better friends and it helped us to trust each other. When we jumped not to let us fall. I think the walking on wire helped us get closer. You had to look out for your self and make sure the person that you were holding hands with didn’t fall either.” -- Wyatt Pratt ('04)
ON BELAY, fall semester 2002

ON BELAY, fall semester 2002

OUTING READINGS FROM
THE OUTWARD BOUND PRIMER

At the start of each meeting and outing, we gather in a circle to start with a reading. Each member takes a turn at sharing a passage that verbalizes the theme of the adventure we are about to undertake. Taken from the Hurricane Island Outward Bound Readings Book donated by Wendy Cohn, these words give us a thread to tie our experiences together.

The truth is that part of the essence of mountain climbing is to push oneself to one’s limits. Inevitably this involves risk, otherwise they would not be one’s limits. This is not to say that you deliberately try something you know you can’t do. But you do deliberately try something which you are not sure you can do.  

-- Woodrow Wilson Sayre

Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.

-- Soren Kierkegaard

If there is no struggle, there is no progress.

-- Frederick Douglass

J. LaPrad

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TEST YOUR LIMITS (continued from page 1)

each other and ourselves. On Outward Bound, we had to test our limits several times, whether it was staying motivated throughout an entire day of backpacking, rock climbing up the face of a mountain, or tackling the less exciting task of going to the bathroom outside. I came back from Outward Bound knowing I could truly test my limits and perform to my full potential.

This semester I am fortunate to have been selected as an intern with that program. I shall have the opportunity to revisit some of the experiences I had in the eighth grade and participate on a different level. Ultimately I know I shall not be afraid to test my limits in everything I do in life, which includes giving 100% in my schoolwork.

EXPERIENCED . . .

Alumnae Jessica Silveri ('99) and Becca McIlwhee ('99) will work in Discovery classrooms to earn elective credit from Orange County High School. They work one period a day as a tutor and mentor with current students, as well as learn more about classroom and outing instruction. Both students will also join several Discovery outings as junior leaders. Jessica worked Discovery in the fall, and Becca will work during the spring semester. Above, Jessica prepares to revisit the Pamper Pole at Poplar Ridge four years after her first ascent. Jessie Silver checks her harness before she takes the first rung.

BEGINNER . . .

Discovery seventh grader Lindsay Coiner ('04) exudes confidence as she learns about the challenge put before her at the Pamper Pole station. Experiential education gives student the opportunity to learn by constructing knowledge, skill, and value from direct experience. Discovery students explore the natural world in a series of outings, expeditions, and activities, all of which are designed to teach about character as well as content. Because individual success frequently requires success as a crew, each year begins with outings at Poplar Ridge to provide team building challenges.

TEST YOUR LIMITS (continued from page 1)

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STUDENTS EXPLORE CHESAPEAKE BAY WITH GOVERNOR WARNER: Discovery eighth graders shared Port Isobel with Virginia Governor Mark Warner and his family in early October as each group worked with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to learn more about Bay ecology and culture. A private island adjacent to Tangier Island and owned by CBF, Port Isobel gave the students an opportunity to learn about the marsh, beach, and Bay environments in a hands-on setting. Above (l): Discovery students pose with Governor Warner before they took to canoes to explore the inlets of the island, and (r) Governor Warner talks with Ian Walters, Jennifer Jarrell, Josh Dotson, Felicia Figgins, Kelsey Powell, and Sarah Wooten ('03).

outing/expedition: Piedmont Environmental Council Annual Conference (8)
site: Linden Lane Farm, Albemarle County
date: September 14
Students worked at the annual PEC conference in order to earn money for their spring Outward Bound course tuition. Above, Rosie Hynes ('03) serves drinks to one of the 600 attendees at a luncheon featuring guest speaker John Grisham.

outing/expedition: white water paddling clinic (8)
site: Virginia Outdoor Center, Fredericksburg
date: September 16
student comments: “We were off to Fredericksburg to the Rappahannock River. The eighth graders got to learn the basics of canoeing and kayaking. We all had some troubles.

The troubles we had was that we would do death spins in the kayaks, and the canoes just wouldn’t turn right unless you knew what you were doing. But the kayaks were pretty cool. We got to turn the kayaks over at the end of the time. You had a skirt that went around you and it has a handle that you pull when you flip. All you do is swim out once you pull it. When you go out in the canoes you get to jump out. Then your partner and you have to try to get back in. Then that was all we had time to do. But it was all pretty cool.” -- Rusty McWilliams ('03)

DIRECT INSTRUCTION:
John Garman of the Virginia Outdoor Center points out differences between a kayak and a canoe to Eric Schwind ('03) and Felicia Figgins ('03) on the banks of the Rappahannock River. Students are introduced to the gear and equipment before each outing, given instruction on how to safely and properly use them, and then learn through hands-on performance.
ON BELAY, fall semester 2002

READY FOR THE RAPIDS: PHMS eighth grade teacher Kristen Keller (front) and Sarah Wooten ('03) learn the basics of kayaking with John Garman of the Virginia Outdoor Center on September 18.

“It was the first time I had ever gone paddling, and I was scared to death. Tons of thoughts were running through my mind (what do I do? how do I do it? what if I drown? etc.). All morning I was nervous and afraid of what might happen to me. When we got to the clinic they split us into two groups and the group I was in went kayaking first. I thought they were just going to stick us in a kayak and tell us to start paddling, but they didn’t. Which was a huge relief because first they showed us what do do and then they took us in the water. Then they showed us what do do when we flipped, and I am glad they did because that was my biggest fear. As time passed by I started getting the hang of it and the good thing is I never flipped. When kayaking was over, I wasn’t at all afraid of canoeing because my biggest fear was over and I wasn’t scared any more.” -- Felicia Figgins ('03)

outfit/expedition: outdoor rock climbing (7)
site: Rapidan Cliffs
date: ground school September 30, climbing days October 2, 3, 9
student comments: “I remember rock climbing pretty well. It was the first trip that I took. After school we went to Woodberry to go rock climbing.

Kellie Davies ('04) shows her pleasure as she’s lowered from her climb.

That was about the fifth time that I went. We had to hike up a hill at first. But once we got up it we put our harnesses on and reviewed for a while. I belayed Claire first, then I climbed. Heather (that tiny little person) was belaying me 130 lbs. I got to the top pretty easily. When I got down I belayed Heather.” -- Logan Collins ('04)

outing/expedition: island exploration and Bay ecology (8)
site: Port Isabel, Tangier Island with Chesapeake Bay Foundation
date: October 5, 6, 7
student comments: “We were strangers in a strange land as we walked through the streets of Tangier Island. We were foreign to the people, but the land was foreign to us. We didn’t know where we were going or what we were seeing. When we first came to Tangier, we met Chad, an educator with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. He showed us the most interesting parts of the island. Also he taught us how to live on island time. When you are on island time, you know what time it is by the setting and rising of the sun and hunger pains.

The island is so beautiful. The sun shone over the Bay and lit the entire island with its beauty. You can’t imagine what it is like to watch a sunrise there. It was as if we were in a feeling of ecstasy. It just slightly eased over the horizon so slowly you wanted to just push it up to the sky. The only thing that everyone hated (continued on page 6)

KISSING THE FISH: Carl Johnson ('03) puckers up to kiss a dead menhaden before dropping it as bait into his crab pot. His affection paid off the next day when his pot was hauled aboard full of Chesapeake Bay jimmies.

A. Mink

THE FOUR PILLARS OF OUTWARD BOUND
PHYSICAL FITNESS
QUALITY OF WORK
SELF RELIANCE
AND, ABOVE ALL ELSE, COMPASSION

A. Mink
ON BELAY, fall semester 2002

DISCOVERY NEWS AND NOTES

Many Discovery students and alumni participated in fall sports at the middle and high school levels. Some of these student-athletes include Carl Johnson ('03) and Josh Dotson ('03) on the PHMS football team; Chelsea Gianniny ('03), Robin Kendall ('03), Kelsey Powell ('03), Katherine Ridgeway ('03), Sarah Wooten ('03), Jessica Jarrell ('01), Lily Brookman ('02), and Elsa Haberland ('02) on the Orange County High School JV field hockey; Felicia Figgins ('03) and Heather Anderson ('04) on the PHMS cheerleading squad; Katie Schwar ('02) on the OCHS JV cheerleading squad; Mary Mittler ('00) on the OCHS varsity cheerleading squad; Rocky Meadows ('99) and James Parker ('00) on the OCHS varsity football team; Andy Carey ('01) and Matthew Randall ('02) on the OCHS JV football team; Jesse Rhines ('00), Lauren Price ('99) and Brianna Sizemore ('01) on the OCHS varsity cross country track team; Penn Mohrmann ('01) on the OCHS varsity golf team; Sarah Ridgeway ('99) and Beth Haberland ('99) on the OCHS varsity field hockey team; Brentney Moore ('02) on the OCHS girls varsity basketball team; Carl Johnson ('03) and John Mohrmann ('03) on the PHMS boys basketball team; Jonathan Selby ('04) and Keegan George ('04) on the PHMS wrestling squad.

Discovery eighth graders have begun earning and saving money for the May, 2003 Outward Bound course. Eric Schwind ('03), Rick Mittler ('03), and John Mohrmann ('03) cleaned and scrubbed the new home of the Orange Business Incubator while working for the Town of Orange. Many thanks to Charles Oliver for his support in this project. Twelve students worked at the Piedmont Environmental Council's annual conference, held this year at Linden Lane Farm in Albemarle County. Students parked cars, handed out literature, and served lunch to the 500+ participants in this year's conference. Special thanks to Cathy Link and Chris Miller for their support in this project. Meanwhile, Krystal Yonts ('03), Rusty McWilliams ('03), and Eric Schwind ('03) worked for an afternoon clearing a trail to Bob Vickery's cabin adjacent to the Shenandoah National Park.

Four years ago, Kara Murphy traveled to Nepal to explore the Asian wilderness. At the Everest basecamp, she met an Australian hiker named Tony Murphy, and after courtship, Kara decided to move to Australia with her new husband rather than return immediately to Virginia. Always interested in Discovery, Kara kept updated on our adventures in Orange through the website and our monthly newsletter. Then, last spring she realized that there was serendipity at work! Down Under: Sarah Curtis-Fawley, Discovery's "Stranger in a Strange Land" for 2002-03, lived and worked in Adelaide -- a mere two streets from where Kara lived with her new family. Half a world away, two strangers met and became friends with Discovery as the common thread. Sarah is engaged to be married to an Aussie in December, 2002.

Each month the Discovery Program compiles a list of friends and supporters called "Those Who Belay". These names have contributed in a variety of ways to our outings, activities, and adventures. It has only been through the tireless interest and generous donation of time and energy of this grassroots coalition that we have enjoyed the successes of this past year. The students, sponsors, and parents of the 2002-03 Discovery Program wish to extend our deepest appreciation to these individuals who truly care about the direction of education in central Virginia. You can view the entire list on our website by clicking on the link on our home page: www.ocss-va.org/discovery

Leighton Reid ('98) spent his summer working as a logistical coordinator at the Colorado Outward Bound School serving courses in southwest Utah. He will be attending Sewanee to study journalism in the fall.

Andy Mink and Billy O'Steen shared their reflections of their recent conference workshop in an article titled that was published in Horizons, the quarterly newsletter of the Association of Experiential Education.

Discovery was featured at two fall conferences in November: the 32nd AEE International Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota, and the Region V National Middle School Association Conference in Harrisonburg. In the spring, Discovery will host a workshop at the Mid-Atlantic Regional AEE conference at James Madison University.

Discovery students and alumni have excelled in the arts during the fall semester. Addie Horan ('02) played the lead role in Romeo and Juliet at Live Arts Theater in Charlottesville. Katie Wooten ('02) performed with Four County Players in their fall production of Little Women. Bailey Awkard ('01) earned All-District honors for band. Kate Hanson ('99) continued to pursue her singing career with performances in Charlottesville and Harrisonburg, including singing the National Anthem at the men's basketball game between Georgetown University and the University of Virginia at University Hall in Charlottesville.

Tickets are currently on sale for the 7th Annual Discovery Benefit Music Festival on January 17, 2003 at the Barboursville Community Theater. This year's stellar line-up promises a memorable night of music with 30 minute sets of original music by area recording artists Andre Hakes, Nickeltown, the Jan Smith Band, and Terri Allard & Mark Brookman. The show starts at 8:00 pm, and tickets are $15 in advance or $18 at the door and can be purchased at PHMS, or Spencer's and Plan 9 in Charlottesville.
was the swarms of mosquitoes. We ran for our lives at one point toward the Bay after we had taken a mud bath. You can’t imagine how we looked, felt, and smelled. Gooey mud was just oozing in some people’s hair. When we did wash off, we tackled each other and laughed endlessly.

When we went on a midnight hike it was amazing. All we could hear was the long grass brushing against each other. We just kept walking through the marsh. It was awesome. Chad wouldn’t tell us where we were going; we couldn’t see a thing. We walked silently through the marsh. It was amazing. I remember how we used the flashlight and we tested our eyes. Then on our way back our guide stopped and swished around the water and all of a sudden it lit up. These, he told us, were phosphorescence. This was the moment that stood out the most to me because I had never fully experienced something like that before.” -- Kelsey Powell (’03)

“The best thing was the midnight walk on Tangier. I think it was our first night there. Well anyways, it was very windy that night. I remember how we used the flashlight and we tested our eyes. Then on our way back our guide stopped and swished around the water and all of a sudden it lit up. These, he told us, were phosphorescence. This was the moment that stood out the most because I had never fully experienced something like that before.” -- Josh Dotson (’03)

“Canoeing with Rosie and Sarah on Tangier. We couldn’t handle the canoe and we spun out of control countless times, but we had the most fun, even though it took us forever to reach the shore again we had a blast being stranded out on the water.” -- Anna Johnson (’03)

“That mud pit is just cemented in my mind. Jumping head first into a stinky, slimy pool of mud. Just everyone being covered from head to toe, nothing white except their teeth, and even though we were coated in mud (which took a very long time to get out). Everyone was smiling and having a good time. You can tell from that picture that we’re some of the happiest people in the world at that moment. Even though the mosquitoes were eating us to pieces it was still great.” -- Rick Mittler (’03)

“The thing I remember the most was when we went to Tangier. Our last morning while everybody was down stairs just talking in the kitchen. I was up in the tower thing watching the sun rise and think of everything we did over the past couple of days and thinking about how much fun we had and now all that fun was coming to an end.” -- Felicia Figgins (’03)

outing/expedition: indoor rock climbing (8)
site: Peak Experiences Climbing Gym, Richmond, VA
date: November 1
student comments: “Early on November 1, an excited bus load of Discovery eighth graders headed out to Richmond for an adventure some day of climbing. When we arrived at Peak Experiences, the helpful staff quickly handed out shoes and harnesses. They taught us how to put on the equipment and how to belay the climbers. We got through their tests and on the wall. We were all amazed by Peak Experiences’ facilities. All the walls were at least 80 feet tall and the gym has a vast bouldering section. After hours of climbing, we took a break to eat, but got back out there shortly. It was a fun way to spend the day, and we learned many things about climbing and belaying that will be helpful later on this year.” -- Katelyn Nelson (’04)

“Canoeing with Rosie and Sarah on Tangier. We couldn’t handle the canoe and we spun out of control countless times, but we had the most fun, even though it took us forever to reach the shore again we had a blast being stranded out on the water.” -- Anna Johnson (’03)

 outing/expedition: introduction to sailing (7)
site: Potomac River, Cole’s Point
date: October 19
student comments: “Sailing was an exciting experience when it’s your first time. On October 19, five students went sailing on the Potomac River. We learned how to put up and down the sails, how to steer the boat, and how to read all of the gauges on the boat. While there, we rode two different boats, including a 27 foot boat and a 44 foot boat. One was named the Jeremy B. I’m glad I went sailing, and I hope to go again.” -- Lucy Quinn (’04)

outing/expedition: beach camping and oceanography (7)
site: Assateague National Seashore
date: October 24, 25, 26
student comments: “I remember walking through the low marsh at Assateague the most. The water came up and got in my waterproof shoes. My whole body went into shock like, “Wow that’s cold.” That’s what stuck in my mind the most of anything. Just to feel what the real definition of cold is that’s what the water felt like.” -- Robert Higgenbotham (’04)

“When we were camping and the tent got left open when it rained. I was mad for about 20 minutes then I burst out laughing. And when I had to cook -- I’m not use to cooking. So I had a lot of trouble. But now I can make goodies without catching fire.” -- Brittany Richie (’04)

“When I think back over the last three months the first thing that comes to my mind is going to Assateague. I remember being in the Atlantic Ocean. I remember my tent getting full of water in the middle of the night. But the main thing I remember is the beautiful scenery. Like the wild horses, the bay, and the light house. Assateague comes to my mind first because it was so beautiful.” -- Katelyn Nelson (’04)

“‘Early on November 1, an excited bus load of Discovery eighth graders headed out to Richmond for an adventurous day of climbing. When we arrived at Peak Experiences, the helpful staff quickly handed out shoes and harnesses. They taught us how to put on the equipment and how to belay the climbers. We got through their tests and on the wall. We were all amazed by Peak Experiences’ facilities. All the walls were at least 80 feet tall and the gym has a vast bouldering section. After hours of climbing, we took a break to eat, but got back out there shortly. It was a fun way to spend the day, and we learned many things about climbing and belaying that will be helpful later on this year.’” -- Katelyn Nelson (’04)

“When we went rock climbing the first indoor rock climb I had been on I remember when I was climbing and I reached the top on the highest one. I remember looking down and that waft of awe filled me. I remember that when I did that I had just I had just said falling and I forgot to keep my feet at in front of me. I swung out word and that stuck in my mind. I still haven’t over come my fear of heights but one day I’m going to rid myself of it that day made me realize how much of a burden it is.” -- Abbey Pennell (’03)
ON BELAY, fall semester 2002

outing/expedition: caving (7)
site: Crossroads cave system
date: November 12

student comments: “Caving was by far the most exciting thing in the last couple of months, the things we experienced and learned. I learn so much about animals (bats in particular) and their habitats and how small the bats were and how they didn’t act as the movies made them out to be. The many different obstacles we faced and the feeling of total darkness was absolutely amazing. It was by far the most adventurous thing I’ve ever done.”

-- Jeff Carey ('04)

“Caving is the thing that came to mind first. I loved it. It just seemed like I’ve done it like a thousand times even though it was my first time. I just really liked how you like had to go through an obstacle to get from one place to another and how you never know what’s going to come next or how long a tunnel is going to last before you come to a dead end. I felt as though I could live there.”

-- Rachel Day ('04)

“One thing I liked best was when we were caving. It was really fun to see how dark a cave can really be. Also just walking around the cave seeing a lot of neat stuff was awesome. So that is one of the best things I have done in Discovery.”

-- Logan Hanley ('04)

outing/expedition: day hike (8)
site: Old Rag Mountain, Shenandoah National Park
date: November 22

student comments: “It was a cold, cold Friday. The weather forecast was calling for a chance of snow. However, that didn’t stop us from achieving our goals that day. Our guests were Mrs. Mink and their daughter Claire. Claire is not old enough to hike up the mountain, so Discovery students carried her in a backpack. While hiking, we surprised a black bear. He barreled down the mountain to get out of our way. I don’t think he was expecting any human beings on such a cold, windy winter day. Chelsea Gianniny almost stepped on a snake. Of all places he could have hibernated, he chose the trail. The wind was blowing so hard that the trees were swaying back and forth and bumping into each other.

When we finally reached the summit, the wind was so strong that it felt as it we would be blown off of the mountain. The view was magnificent. The clouds were so close that you felt as if you could touch them. On the way back down, snowflakes began swirling all around us.

We discovered that wintertime hiking can be an adventure. It was worth the cold fingers, cold feet, and runny noses.”

-- Katherine Ridgeway ('04)

outing/expedition: indoor rock climbing (7)
site: Peak Experiences Climbing Gym, Richmond, VA
date: December 10

student comments: Students put their rock knowledge to the test on the indoor climbing walls at Peak Experiences Climbing Gym in Richmond. With dozens of routes ranging from beginner to advanced pitches, students will have more than enough time tied into the rock to get a feel for the sport. Seventh graders practiced their bouldering and climbing while eighth grade volunteers served as belay sherpas for the day to earn community service hours.

FACES OF THE FALL SEMESTER: (top) John Mohrmann ('03) carries Claire Mink ('12), 3, on a section of the Berry Hollow Trail during our ascent of Old Rag Mountain in November; (middle) Heather Anderson ('04) belays under the watchful eye of Woodberry Forest School’s Jim Reid; (bottom) Chelsea Gianniny ('03) works to stretch the spray skirt over the cockpit of her kayak.