

# Our Schools

by Gwedette Crummie



## Excited About the Lessons Learned on the Court

It was only the second week of school when my students at Crozet Elementary School had the opportunity to thank the community for a very special gift: brand new, student-size tennis courts.

Thanks to the generosity and persistence of QuickStart Tennis of Central Virginia, along with all of the donors to this wonderful organization, the entire Crozet community will benefit from these courts — and not just through improved physical fitness skills like endurance and coordination!

Tennis is also a great opportunity to take learning beyond the walls of the classroom. It provides experiences in strategic thinking, problem solving and concentration — some of the lifelong learning competencies we aim to build in each and every student in Albemarle County Public Schools as well as important skills that people of all ages can put to use in life and in learning.

Again, the mental and physical benefits of tennis aren't all these courts will bring to our community. These courts provide another valuable opportunity: the chance to share intergenerational experiences. One of our school's PTO members shared a story at the ribbon-cutting event about how her elderly mother was looking forward to hitting the tennis ball around with her elementary-age daughter — a great memory for the whole family to share.

The next time you are in the area, I hope you will stop by and visit the new QuickStart Tennis Courts at Crozet Elementary School. These courts are just one example of what can happen when our schools and local government form partnerships with community organizations like QuickStart Tennis of Central Virginia. And coming this spring, we will have picnic tables thanks to the generosity of the Crozet Lions Club. See you on the court!



Gwedette is the principal at Crozet Elementary School.



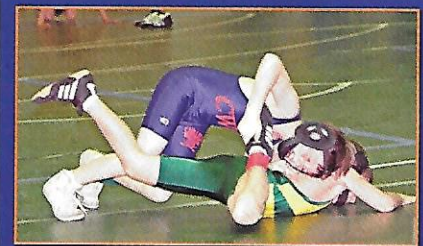
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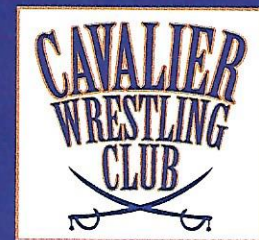
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