

LOCALNEWS



A Bronco mascot greets Falls Elementary students Tuesday during a pep rally to welcome children back to school.

STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

FRESH START

Students at Falls Elementary, West End Elementary and Falls High School were welcomed back to classes Tuesday with a pep rally to kick off the new year. The rally at FHS was to promote a new program, Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports, or PBIS, intended to address behavior issues in a positive way. At the elementary level, the program kicked off last year and Tuesday’s rally reminded students to display their Bronco pride at school and around the community.



Falls High School students received a free Bronco pride shirt Tuesday during a surprise pep rally to promote a new program, Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports, or PBIS, intended to address behavior issues in a positive way.

Falls native takes command of health center

BY HUGH COX
Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center, Public Affairs

Command of the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center changed when Capt. Scott Jonson relieved Capt. Michael Macinski during a ceremony conducted at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Aug. 22. Rear Admiral Terry Moulton, Commander, Navy Medicine East, Portsmouth, Virginia presided over the ceremony. In his remarks, Moulton cited the leadership and accomplishments of both participants as well as the tremendous impact that NMCPHC’s contributions have on Navy and Marine Corps mission readiness. “The Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center is the public health expert,” said Moulton. “From supporting our nation’s wounded, ill, and injured to monitoring and improving the environment that our Sailors and Marines work and live in every day. You’re at the front of Navy medicine leading the fight to ensure our forces are always ready to respond. Prevention and protection starts with you.” Moulton presented Macinski with the Legion of Merit for his leadership in support of Navy public health and the Navy medicine mission. “Capt. Macinski is a caring and trusted leader who has inspired his staff and set the bar high,” said Moulton. Macinski has been the driving force behind numerous public health success stories during his tenure as commanding officer. Under his



Capt. Scott Jonson

leadership, NMCPHC successfully launched a comprehensive health promotion and wellness campaign that drew praise from the United States surgeon general and strategically aligns with the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative. He also re-established the Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit Seven Rota, Spain, thus bringing back a critical public health asset to both European Command and Africa Command areas of operations. Macinski is particularly pleased with the legacy he leaves behind and even more grateful to the efforts of the Navy public health experts who help ensure war-fighter readiness. “I’m extremely proud of the support that Navy medicine and in particular Navy public health provides to our Fleet and Marine Corps customers,” said Macinski. “I consider it a privilege and my good fortune to have been surrounded by such dedicated and hard-working professionals. This team is second to none.” The new NMCPHC Commanding Officer, Capt. Jonson, a native of International Falls, Minn., was commissioned in late 1987 and began his Navy Medicine career as a staff physical therapist at Naval Medical Center, San Diego. Jonson earned his master of science degree in human

movement science from the University of North Carolina and holds a doctor of science degree in orthopedic physical therapy with a concentration in sports medicine and primary care from the tri-service U.S. Military-Baylor University Sports Medicine, Physical Therapy Doctoral Program, at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. Operational assignments included the USS Abraham Lincoln, where Jonson had the distinction as being the first Navy physical therapist assigned as ship’s company to a U.S. Navy warship. Most recently, Jonson served as the executive officer at the Naval Medical Research Unit, San Antonio. Upon assuming command, Jonson thanked Macinski for his leadership and lasting contributions to public health, while praising the entire NMCPHC enterprise for their role in war-fighter readiness. “You’re the right team to help prevent injury and illness on the battlefield and in-garrison,” said Jonson. “I’m truly honored to serve as your next commanding officer.” NMCPHC is part of the Navy medicine team, a global health care network of 63,000 Navy Medical personnel around the world who provide high-quality healthcare to more than one million eligible beneficiaries. Navy Medicine personnel deploy with Sailors and Marines worldwide, providing critical mission support aboard ships, in the air, under the sea and on the battlefield.

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