



Meet Your Richmond Hill School Nurses



*By Catherine Grant
Photos by Patti Todd*

It's no secret that Richmond Hill is known for its excellent school system and the school nurses are no exception. Despite their diverse training and over 110 years of combined experience between them, it impresses me that they all have nearly the same exact answer to one question: What is one thing that you want the community to know about you? The common answer is that they treat each student as they would their own. As a parent, at times, it can be hard to send your kids off to school and into another's care. What could be more reassuring, however, than knowing what caring, compassionate hands they are in? I hope you enjoy meeting your Richmond Hill School Nurses; I sure did! ✨



Heidi Baker, RN

RICHMOND HILL
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Nurse Baker is originally from Macon, Georgia; she has lived in Richmond Hill for the last seven years. She and her husband, Cliff, moved here when she was pregnant with their daughter, Maggie, “For the fantastic school system and close-knit community.” Maggie is now in second grade at Richmond Hill Elementary School, and they have a 19 month-old son named Carson.

This is Nurse Baker’s first year as the school nurse at Richmond Hill Middle School but definitely not her first year in nursing. She graduated from Macon College in 1994 and has worked in a variety of settings including: Urology, Day Surgery and the Neonatal and Pediatric ICU. When not at school, Nurse Baker enjoys spending time with her family, going to the pool and to the movies. There’s no question that with Nurse Baker’s extensive experience and warm, caring nature, she is truly an asset to Richmond Hill Middle School.

Favorite Subject in School: English

"Nurses dispense comfort, compassion and caring without even a prescription."

— *Val Saintsbury*



Kathy Eichhorn, RN

CARVER ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

Nurse Eichhorn has been a registered nurse for the last 21 years, and has spent the last three years serving the fourth and fifth grade students at Carver Elementary School. Prior to becoming a school nurse, Nurse Eichhorn worked in Pediatrics, Home Health and the Emergency Department, which gave her an extensive range of experience to draw from. Caring for others has always been something that comes naturally, growing up the oldest girl of eight in Palos Heights, Illinois.

Nurse Eichhorn moved to Richmond Hill 14 years ago with her husband, Brian, who is a mortgage broker at First Carolina Mortgage. They have three children, all of

whom attend school in Richmond Hill, Emily in tenth grade, Brian in ninth, and Abby who’s in eighth grade. Nurse Eichhorn is an avid runner and is currently training for the Rock and Roll Half-Marathon to be held this year in Savannah. She enjoys spending time with family and painting. You can see several of her pieces displayed on the walls of the nurse’s office at Carver.

When you meet Nurse Eichhorn, you can immediately sense her upbeat personality and natural ability to comfort and reassure students.

Favorite Subject in School: PE



Heidi Baker



Kathy Eichhorn

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched; they must be felt with the heart."

— Helen Keller



Laura Slack, RN

**RICHMOND HILL
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Nurse Slack grew up 25 miles west of New York City in Martinsville, New Jersey. She and her husband, Bruce, moved to Richmond Hill in 1999 along with their three children: James-20, Becky-18 and Steven-16. Nurse Slack wanted to be a nurse since she was a child; she has always enjoyed caring for others. She attended nursing school at Muhlenberg School of Nursing in New Jersey and graduated in 1981. She worked in the Intensive Care unit for 15 years and in various specialties for another nine years. She has been the school nurse at Richmond Hill Elementary School for the past three years, where she has really enjoyed caring for

the second and third grades there. "They are a fun age-group. I look forward to coming to work with them every day."

Nurse Slack's knowledge and passion for her job are apparent when you meet her. She is easy to talk to and full of energy. When not at school, Nurse Slack enjoys gardening, music, reading and just "enjoying life and laughter." She is a breast cancer survivor, five years in remission. Her demeanor echoes her favorite quote by Helen Keller: "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched; they must be felt with the heart."

Favorite Subject in School: Language Arts



Phyllis Pastor-Orr, RN

**RICHMOND HILL
HIGH SCHOOL**

Nurse Orr has been caring for the medical needs of the students at Richmond Hill High School for the last ten years. She graduated from Hahnemann University in 1982 and worked in the Intensive Care Unit, Critical Care Unit, Recovery Room, Ambulatory Surgery, Cardiac Catheterization Lab, as well as in nursing supervision prior to moving to Richmond Hill. Nurse Orr grew up in South New Jersey and moved to Richmond Hill ten years ago with her husband, Tim, who retired from the Coast Guard and now works for CSX, and her son Dallas, who will graduate from Richmond Hill High School this year.

What she enjoys most, she says, is the fast-paced environment, interacting with the students and watching them mature over the four years they are with her. Nurse Orr is an avid gardener and loves boating and in-shore fishing. Her experience is apparent when you see her interact with her students. She communicates compassion and genuine interest in each student's well-being.

Favorite Subject in School: Science and Art



Laura Slack



Phyllis Pastor-Orr