



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Alexandria Country Day School Teacher Awarded Fulbright Hays Grant**

(Alexandria, VA, February, 2009) Jessica Silverman, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Alexandria Country Day School will be traveling again this summer. Ms. Silverman was awarded a Fulbright Hays grant to participate in the Teach Ottoman Empire project. She will travel to western Turkey and the Balkans on a four-week curriculum-building trip with 11 other American teachers and two professors from the University of Arizona's Center for Middle Eastern Studies. They will study the process of cultural exchange between East and West, how institutions and concepts from Ottoman times have exerted influence on contemporary events and meet with other educators throughout the region to establish international dialogue.

Ms. Silverman will incorporate the information and resources gained from the experience into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies curriculum during the unit on Islam next year. She teaches 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies and reading, in addition to being the head of the social studies department. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies/reading curriculum at ACDS takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of world religions and cultures. Through this curriculum, students deepen their cross-cultural awareness, respect and tolerance for people of diverse religions and cultures. Students participate in a wide variety of experiential learning activities, such as field trips to various religious institutions, holiday celebrations and cultural events.

Ms. Silverman brings the curriculum alive by weaving her extensive travel experiences throughout South Asia, Europe, Northern Africa, the Middle East and East Asia into her classes. In addition, she has a Master's degree in Sanskrit Literature from Oxford and other MA in Religious Studies from the University of Virginia. "Jessica is a fantastic teacher and her cross-cultural expertise, both personal and professional, enhances the classroom experience for the students. We are very proud of her!" said Exie Harvey, ACDS Head of School.

*Alexandria Country Day School is an independent K-8 school serving the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Founded in 1983, the community school serves 240 students in one building, promoting interaction among the grade levels and fostering leadership principles. For more information, visit the school's website at [www.acdsnet.org](http://www.acdsnet.org).*

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Jessica Silverman in Delhi, India