

News from MRHS ...

We are amazed that another quarter is almost complete. As we head into Mid Term Exam week, I thought that I would send out an update. Hopefully, you have had a chance to read through our newsletter, *The Ridge*, which is posted on our school website, www.marriottsridge.net. The newsletter highlights student accomplishments, staff efforts, club and team achievements, and the activities of our parent groups. Under the stewardship of our newsletter editor, Ms. Cindy Happel, we are hoping to post electronic newsletters every month February through June.

Reviewing Second Quarter, our students have done a wonderful job of applying themselves to their academic subjects, even with the recent weather issues that have affected our schedule. Seniors spent the past few months applying for colleges, scholarships, and military and job programs ... we are starting to see the fruits of their efforts. A couple of successes to celebrate so far ... Andre Morales was accepted at Yale University and Yebo Fu was chosen as a semifinalist (one of 300 students from across the nation) in the Intel Science Talent Search. We can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings for our graduating students.

Our Fine Arts program continues to excel. Many of our students have been chosen for the All State Senior and Junior Bands, Choirs, and Orchestras. Out of 2000 students who auditioned, Marriotts Ridge students earned more spots in these honor groups than any other school in Maryland. Congratulations to the students who received this recognition and their directors, Mr. Eberhardt, Mr. Ellis, and Mrs. Lather!

Even though our sports teams have not experienced the success of the fall season yet, we commend our student-athletes for their incredibly positive attitude, sense of team play, and "never quit" drive. We applaud the Girls Basketball Team on their outstanding performance in the First Annual Holiday Hoops Tournament held at our school ... congratulations! Another highlight of this quarter was the unveiling last Friday night of our first state championship banner for the Boys Soccer Team ... what a great thrill for our whole community!

Working with PTSA, Boosters, and Music Foundation, our SGA is playing an integral role in planning "MRHStival" ... a fun, safe way to end Mid Term Exam Week this Friday night January 22 7-10 PM. This event is open to all MRHS students and their families. We will have a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournery, Moon Bounce, Karaoke, Comedy Improv, and other games. Come on out ... should be great fun and a positive alternative to poor decision making that might take place instead. Thanks to everyone who has helped to organize this special evening!

If you want to read more about any of this information, check out our website. Mr. Hahne and his students do an incredible job of chronicling everything that goes on at MRHS. While you are visiting our website, check out *The Stallion*, our excellent student newspaper under the direction of Ms. Olsen, or the creative *Ridgeline* videos produced by our TV Class students and the MRHS Film Club members who are mentored by Mr. McDonald.

Looking ahead to this week's tests, I want to commend the students who took the opportunity to participate in last week's review sessions. Talking to these students afterwards, they felt well prepared and appreciated the efforts of the teachers who organized these sessions. Thank you,

thank you to those teachers who went above and beyond the call of duty! Remember that the 4B exam will be given on Tuesday the 19th, Periods 1 and 2 exams on Wednesday (1/20), 3 and 4A on Thursday (1/21), and 5 and 6 on Friday (1/22). School will close at 11:10 AM on January 20-22.

We know that mid terms can be a stressful experience for students and families, but we truly believe that our students are ready. We received our results on the county assessments for First Quarter a couple of weeks ago and we thought that this would be a great time to share some highlights with you. On the United States History quarterly assessment, our students had a passing rate of 98%, over 11% ahead of the next highest school. Our English 9 students scored a 91% success rate, barely missing the top spot in the county. MRHS was the only school in the county to achieve a 100% passing score on the Earth Science assessment. Finally, our German students also earned a 100% success rate. Good Luck to all of our students ... Study now ... Study hard ... You can do it!

As I wrap this up, I would be remiss if I did not mention the great American hero, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose legacy we honor today. He spent his life trying to make the world a better place ... we can do the same. Please keep Haiti in your thoughts and prayers ... I am sure that we will mobilize as a school community in the next few days to reach out to help this country in need.

Once again, best wishes to our students this week ... Honor and Excellence in all that we do ... Go Mustangs!

Pat Saunderson, James LeMon, Cara Moulds, Rosalie Bowen, and Gene Brown

PS ... If you ever have a question, a comment, or would like to offer some time or a talent, please feel free to email us at patrick_saunderson@hcpss.org.