

A Message from Marriotts Ridge
Instilling Honor and Excellence in All That We Do

Amazing ... just a little over a month ago we were dealing with snow everywhere and school was closed for more than a week. Since our return to school, things have been on overdrive as we tried to reschedule the many events that were cancelled while moving ahead with the start of the spring season, the spring play, and many other events. Our students and staff members have been incredible while we get things back on track. As we head into Spring Break at the end of the week, we want to share all of the good news going on at the Ridge.

However, before we applaud our school's recent accomplishments, we want to discuss several very important topics that we all need to be mindful of every year. As spring fever hits and we head towards Prom and Graduation, we must all take some time to reinforce our feelings about making good choices. All students need to be reminded about reckless driving. On Route 99 the other day, a student unknowingly passed me and then another car on the right shoulder of the road. Real cool ... a minute or two later we pulled up behind the offending student at the light. Moral of the story ... there could have been great injury to one of the drivers or passengers, including the little girl in the car in front of me ... and nothing was gained ... we ended up at the light at the same time. Conclusion to the story ... a forfeited parking permit.

On another front related to good decision making ... our students must hear that underage drinking is not supported by any of us. Looking the other way with a wink and a nod is not cool ... it is stupid. We cannot wait for a student to get hurt or hurt someone else for us to do something ... we must say something now ... thanks to all who already do.

Finally, we must mention Facebook, MySpace, texting, tweeting, etc ... while these things are incredible tools to bring people together, they can also be used to spread rumors and unfounded gossip, leading to horrible repercussions. At an administrators' meeting last week, we learned about another high school in the county where several fights occurred recently, resulting in some serious injuries, as a result of internet messages. On the news last night, there was a feature on a young lady who took her own life due to the excessive bullying/cyberbullying that she experienced ... what a tragedy. What seems harmless to some can be viewed as extremely harmful by others. We have so many great kids ... we can't let them get caught up in this stuff.

Now onto the good news ... we commend everyone for getting our students to school. With the flu and the snow, it has been a unique year. However, our students have risen to the occasion and achieved an "Excellent" rating according to state standards once again. **Our attendance rate is currently above 96%.** If we can keep up the good work, we will be the only school in the county to achieve this ranking for five years in a row. Beyond the great ranking which is a nice honor for Marriotts Ridge, we all know the reason that we must continue to stress attendance for the rest of the year is that time in school is one of the most important ingredients for academic success. Thanks to all for your efforts!

We want to update you on **several assemblies** that have occurred recently or are planned for the upcoming weeks. Last Tuesday many students got to spend an hour hearing about a Holocaust survivor's experience ... what an invaluable learning opportunity! We will celebrate our students' cultural backgrounds at our annual Multicultural Assembly this week ... our Fine Arts Department, MAAAC, Alpha Achievers, and South Asian Society have organized this event. In a couple of weeks, the SGA will emcee the Spring Pep Rally. During Prom Week, we will hold a Drinking and Driving program in conjunction with the Howard County Police Department and MADD. Finally, we are very excited about the Leadership Workshop that we have created and will offer to students from all Howard County high schools in June. Stay tuned!

Recapping one event that occurred during the snowstorm and may have been missed by some ... the **Marriotts Ridge Ice Hockey Team** competed in the county championship. We really enjoyed seeing so many students and families at this special event. Even though the team did not win the championship, we commend all of the players on a great season. In just four years, the team has gone from 3 -7 to 8 – 1 and is now considered a power in the county. Congrats on an exciting season and best wishes for the future!

Highlighting our Winter Athletic Season were the accomplishments of the **Cheerleading Squad**. Taking on perennial winners such as River Hill and Long Reach at the County Championships, our cheerleaders emerged victorious ... that's right ... **County Champions!** Way to Go!!! Congratulations to our Cheerleaders and their awesome coach, Ms. Kelly O'Brien!

The Howard **County Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fair** was held in late February. We really enjoyed learning about the research conducted by our students and applaud the following students on their achievements at the county level:

Joe Snyder	Best of Biology: Behavioral and Social Science
Carol Wu	Runner Up: Microbiology
Fereshteh Oreizi-Esfahani	Blue ribbon of Excellence
Molly Brnich	Blue Ribbon of Excellence
Ruchi Gondalia	Blue Ribbon of Excellence
Molly Brnich	Baltimore/Wash DC Society of Women Engineers
Linda Barron	Baltimore/Wash DC Society of Women Engineers

Thanks also to Mr. Dan Sageman, Science Team Leader, and the Science Team for all of their hard work and effort in supporting our students during this process.

We have thoroughly enjoyed the noise coming from the Technology Education rooms on Thursday evenings this winter. Involving almost 40 students, our **First Robotics Team, also known as the Steel Stangs**, has been working very hard to build and program a robotic device that could play in a modified game of soccer against a field of competitors from around the country. After many weeks of hard work, our team went to Washington DC for the Regional Championships. Sixty teams from California to Connecticut attended this special event. While our team did not win, our team members have learned a lot and have even more enthusiasm for next year's competition. Thanks to team sponsors, Mr. Roy Rosnik and Mr. Don Rodis, and to all who contributed to this effort!

We just received word that three MRHS students have been named **National Merit Finalists**. Congratulations to Andre Morales, Yebo Fu, and Kevin Shen! This is truly a high honor ... we keep getting more and more good news about our seniors' awards, college acceptances, and scholarships. Excellent!

The **Marriotts Ridge High Speech and Debate Team** did extremely well in its first year of competition. In the state qualifier, 13 of our students competed and three ... Trudel Pare, Rachel Hanon, and Maggie Woodbury ... qualified for the state championships. Trudel took first as best orator at the tournament ... outstanding! Thanks to Ms. Andrea Orndorff, Staff Sponsor, for her work with this program!

The **MRHS Family and Community Programs Group** (SGA, PTSA, Boosters, Music Foundation, and Staff) have joined efforts this year to provide safe, entertaining activities for our students on Friday nights. In January, we held our First 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament and Fun Night to cap off Midterm Exam Week. Over 200 students had a great time at this event. We then hosted a Comedy/Hypnosis Night in early March. Almost 300 students attended this hilarious evening at the Ridge. We look forward to continuing such programs in the future ... thanks to all who have helped out!

The **Mustang Boosters, MRHS Music Foundation, and Marriotts Ridge PTSA** continue to amaze us with their support of our students and community. The Boosters Mustang Madness Night was a huge success. Everyone loved the games, music, and costumes at this event and a lot of money was raised to fund the extracurricular programs at MRHS. The Music Foundation Flea Market has become a special tradition in our community with a long line waiting for the doors to open. Finally, Basket Bingo to benefit After Prom was a big hit. Thanks to everyone who trekked up to Eldersburg to support this great cause to make sure that our kids have a safe, fun time after our Prom.

The **Maryland PTSA State Reflections Contest** recently announced the winners for this year's program. Our very own Katherine Jackson received an Award of Merit in Literature. Congratulations, Katherine!

The **MRHS Chapter of FBLA** (Future Business Leaders of America) has been very busy recently. A few weeks ago, our FBLA hosted a very successful Regional Leadership Conference with over 200 participants. At the State Conference held this past weekend, two MRHS students were elected to state office. Congratulations to Faith Katsman who was elected State President and Vivian Tu who will serve as State Recorder/Historian. Several other students were also successful at the state conference and will represent Maryland at the National FBLA Conference to be held in Nashville, Tennessee this July.

Vivian Tu and Carol Wu	First Place	Business Ethics
Austin Carroll	First Place	Job Interview
Aneesh Agrawal	First Place	Cyber Security
Danielle Frazier	Second Place	Impromptu Speaking
Sammy Fishman	Second Place	Website Development
Kyle Mercer		
Ryan Oberholzer		
Brendan McMurtray	Second Place	Business Calculations
Dan Paulin	Third Place	Technology Concepts

Congratulations to all who participated ... you represented Marriotts Ridge with style! Special Thanks to Mr. Reg Hahne and Ms. Lorene Canella for putting in so many extra hours with this wonderful program!

Our **Student Government Association** continues to do great things this year. The "Dyeing to Live" Change Collection raised over \$400 for World Vision to go towards Haiti Relief. As a result of this fundraiser, over 50 staff members dyed their hair green on St. Patrick's Day. Good fun for a good cause! In addition to commending our SGA officers and assembly members, we want to acknowledge the contributions of our Staff Advisors, Ms. Jen Skahill and Ms. Bernadette Allman ... thank you!

Our Student Services Team sponsored "**Beyond High School: What's in your Future?**" and other college and career prep nights over the past month. These programs offer very important information for all families. If you did not get to attend these events or need more information, please go to the Student Services section on our school website. The Student Services Team also coordinated Junior Interview Day this week. Thanks to Ms. Margie Ford, Team Leader, and her outstanding team ... Mr. Will Schwarz, Ms. Farah Evans, Ms. Jodi Dubbs, Ms. Lisa Beschner, Ms. Joni Deison, Mr. Jeff Leard, Ms. Heather Graham, Ms. Harriet Lee, and Ms. Angie Lee.

If you did not see the **MRHS Poms Squad** in action, you truly missed out. Competing in several invitationals this year, the squad won many prizes in categories such as high kick and hip hop. Qualifying for the State Championships, the team traveled down to the University of Maryland to compete against the best from across Maryland. The squad competed in five events. Winning four categories, the MRHS Poms Squad was crowned as **State Champions**. What a wonderful achievement ... congratulations to our Poms team members and their staff sponsor, Ms. Caryn Hawkins!

This is that time of the year when we get to attend **Fine Arts Department Festivals and Adjudications**. Seeing our students in action is better than going to the Kennedy Center, the Hippodrome, or the BSO. We know that an amazing amount of work goes into preparing for these programs. Congratulations to our Dance Teams, Bands, Choir, Madrigals, and Orchestra. The efforts of our students and Fine Arts teachers ... Mr. Terry Eberhardt, Mrs. Rosemary Lather, Mr. Nick Ellis, and Mrs. Trish Spruill ... are to be commended!

Oh what a beautiful morning ... oh what a beautiful day! The latest stage production at Marriotts Ridge, **Oklahoma**, was phenomenal. Over 100 students sang, danced, played in the pit orchestra, painted sets, ran lights and sound, made costumes, and on and on. Incredible ... what a pleasure! Thanks to Liv, E, Spruill and to all who put this show together ... special thanks to "Behind the Scenes" staff members, Ms. Jane Antico, Ms. LaVerne Miers-Bond, Mr. Nick Ellis, and Mr. Bill Eikenberg!

Extra, Extra ... Read all about it! Many of the events described above are spotlighted in the newest edition of **The Stallion**. Check out the articles about the play, winter sports, local, national, and international news. Another excellent edition ... we commend the Stallion Staff, its Editor in Chief, Marie Mandelberg, and Staff Advisor, Ms. Amanda Olsen.

This past weekend, Marriotts Ridge participated in **Howard County History Day**. Bringing history alive by reenacting the lives of famous American innovators, MRHS students performed incredibly well. Alan Cheung, David Oh, Anna Rimlinger, Ben Bott, and Andrew Gradone were excellent! In the individual performance category, Anna came in third, Ben took second, and Andrew was awarded First Place ... Well Done!! Andrew and Ben will represent Marriotts Ridge and Howard County at Maryland History Day. Thanks to Mr. Paul Higdon for facilitating this learning process throughout the year and to our Boosters and PTSA for providing financial support for the Living History project ... a very worthwhile endeavor ... thanks again!

This weekend was truly a great one for Marriotts Ridge ... we want to congratulate Brian Kim on winning the **Grand Prize at the Baltimore Science Fair** (this is considered the statewide science fair). Marriotts Ridge students have now won the statewide science fair two times in our short history. Brian will travel to the Intel International Science Fair in California. Good Luck, Brian! Congratulations to our Science Department and our GT Resource Teacher, Mr. Paul Eckert, for their hard work too!

This week's schedule includes **National Art Honor Society** inductions, sports games, and **Howard County Senior Art Night**. Senior Art Night will recognize the efforts of MRHS student-artist Melanie Bulavinetz. Congrats to Melanie and our NAHS inductees. The work of our NAHS students is proudly displayed in our Commons Area ... simply fantastic! Come by and check it out!

We want to end this Administrative Bulletin by commending Mr. Paul Higdon, the **Class of 2010 Teacher of the Year**. Mr. Higdon is an outstanding educator who brought great expertise to the MRHS community. Mr. Higdon and Mr. Bob Siskind, the 2009-10 American Red Cross Educator of the Year, are retiring at the end of this year after almost 80 years of combined service to the students of Howard County ... these gentlemen scholars have blessed so many ... they both will be greatly missed ... we wish them the best in their future endeavors.

Enjoy your Spring Break ... be safe out there ... we will see you all back at school on April 12.

Go Mustangs!

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