

## News from Marriotts Ridge ....

Third Quarter is over and Prom is only a day away. Our Music Concerts were wonderful last week and many, many students are taking AP tests this week and next. We thought that we would bring you up to speed on a few things ...

**Prom** will begin at 7 PM tomorrow night. Prom will be held at the Hilton Baltimore next to Camden Yards rather than the Hyatt where it has been held in the past. The Hyatt “doublebooked” for this weekend and had to reserve the more upscale Hilton for us instead. We had the opportunity to visit the Hilton this week and were very impressed ... the hotel is a little over a year old and the staff is fantastic. The ballroom is beautiful and they have everything set for a wonderful evening. **After Prom** will be held at Dave and Buster’s at Arundel Mills ... our PTSA, Boosters, and all of our parent volunteers must be commended for organizing this fun filled, safe activity for our kids.

We held a **Pre Prom assembly** yesterday for all of our 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Our speakers were excellent. **Please take a few minutes between now and this weekend**, even if you son or daughter is not attending the big event, to remind them that you care very much about them and hope that they make good decisions this and every weekend.

**Staff Appreciation Week** at Marriotts Ridge High this week has been very nice. Our Korean families collaborated with the PTSA to sponsor a delicious lunch on Wednesday. The PTSA and Boosters sponsored a continental breakfast on Thursday morning and will host a luncheon for staff today. As I have requested in previous years, **I ask that you take a few minutes today or this weekend** to send an appreciation email or two ... or three or four ... to your student’s teachers, coaches, counselors ... or our secretaries, assistants, custodians, cafeteria workers, and bus drivers. Please “cc” me on your emails and I will make sure they get posted on our mailroom board also. If you cannot find someone’s email address, just send the note to me and I will make sure the staff member(s) gets it. The ones that staff members have already received this week are very much appreciated. Thanks to every member of our staff ... they are truly the best!!!!

As we finished Third Quarter, we must commend the **819 students who achieved Academic Honor Roll**. We will celebrate with them next week. We encourage all of our students to finish the year on a high note!

We cannot say enough about our **Music Concerts** last week. Congratulations on another outstanding year go out to our Choir, Band, Guitar, and Orchestra students and their teachers, Mr. Eberhardt, Mr. Ellis, Ms. Bocklund, and Ms. Lather. Our Vocal Music Program finished the season off with a smashing performance at the State Choir Festival. They were simply amazing and received the highest scores from the judges!

In other student news ...

Brian Tich’s poem *Conch* was awarded First Place in the Howard County Library’s Word Up! Poetry Contest. Gentry Pack’s *Death Sentence* was also recognized!  
Congratulations!

Jesse Schwarz, Richard Gil, Zack Zaruba and Taylor Zaruba participated last weekend at UMBC in the state competition for Destination Imagination. Finishing in Second Place among fifteen teams, our students will move on to the global competition at the University of Tennessee later in May. Good Luck!

The Latin Club recently participated in the Maryland Junior Classical League Spring Convention. They brought home twelve awards in a variety of categories. Brian Tich took First Place in two events and Jenna Albright, Andrew Lockard, and James Chen came in Second Place in various events. Finally, our Chariot Team, using a chariot that they built beforehand, took Second Place in the Chariot Race ... I wish I had been there to see that one. Congratulations to our students and their Staff Sponsor, Mr. Marc Fisher!

Some more news on the Howard County Gifted and Talented Student Learning Conference that was held two weeks ago ... I left out a few students ... my apologies. Walaa Sidsky served on the Executive Committee for the event, Leah Malakoff served as an Event Hostess, and Courtney Coleman also participated in a group presentation. Well done, ladies!

Our SGA and the entire MRHS school community was recognized last Friday by the Maryland State Department of Education as the #4 school for the entire state and the #1 school in Howard County for our canned food drive contributions to the Maryland Food Bank/Harvest for the Hungry "Kids Helping Kids" campaign ... almost 7,000 pounds of food were donated. A round of applause for everyone involved!

Two final things ... we want to express our appreciation to the many, many families who donate their time and talents to our community. The staff will host a **Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon** on May 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:15 to 12:15 for anyone who has contributed in any way to our school community this year. Please come out and join us ... we appreciate you! Let us know if you are coming by sending a quick email to Ms. Burdick at [gay\\_burdick@hcpss.org](mailto:gay_burdick@hcpss.org). We look forward to seeing you ... thanks again!

Last item ... we know that the weather is improving and it is getting hot outside, but **we need your help** in maintaining a proper work environment. School system rules are still in effect. From the Student/Parent Handbook ... Tank tops, crop tops, halter tops, tube tops and muscle shirts cannot be worn. Bra straps should not be exposed. Clothing with inappropriate exposure or with excessive rips, tears, or holes cannot be worn. Help us out ... there are already enough distractions without having to deal with this too. I feel like I have to cover my eyes when trying to have conversation with some students. We are working to address this ... your support and assistance is greatly appreciated.

Hope to see you at an upcoming event ... the sports teams are doing great and the Dance Concerts are next week ... Go Mustangs!  
Pat Saunderson, James LeMon, Cara Moulds, Rosalie Bowen, and Gene Brown